(IR45P) 40p

THURSDAY 26 DECEMBER 1996

Independent writers on the moments that made 1996

BARGAINS Your complete guide, page 7

WEATHER: Cold and mostly dry

#### The single flake of snow that brought a white Christmas windfall

Clare Garner

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A single flake of snow falling on the London Weather Centre dealt a blow to the bookies who were already reeling from shelling out £92,000 to punters who had laid money on the Spice Girls topping the Yuletide

The arrival of the solitary flake on a rooftop in London's Clerkenwell was all that was needed to mark yesterday as Britain's first white Christmas in 20 years. Both Ladbrokes and William Hill will today start paying out around £100,000 to thousands of punters cashing in on the windfall. The only question is whether the winners realise their good fortune.

"I hope they won't be throwing their slips away." said Simon Clare, a spokesman for Lad-hrokes, "They'll be looking out of their window and thinking: 'No way, when in fact they will be clutching what could be a fairly valuable Christmas bonus.

There's not a sign of snow on the ground, but it definitely is a white Christmas. People have been asking 'Does it have to stick?' Does it have to be in certain places?' But the fact is that at least one flake of snow on the London Weather Centre roof equals a white caristmas. By all accounts there

wasn't much more." It is only the third time that Ladbrokes has lost the seasonal flutter since it started the "fun Christmas bet" in 1964. And this year it took more money for the bet than in any previous year. The odds started at 12-1 last January, fell to 10-1 at the beginning of December and then

to 2-1 on Christmas Eve. Graham Sharpe, spokesman for William Hill, described the snow fall and Spice Girls' No 1 as a: "double whammy". The biggest winner in the capital was James Sexton, a public relationsconsultant who gave 1,300 clients Christmas presents of a

The day was marked by record supermarket spending, British Telecom's busiest day of the year - and Heathrow's quietest.

In Northern Ireland, Christmas revellers set a world record for a single day's trading by Marks & Spencer store. More than 30,000 people piled into M&S at Sprucefield, outside Lisburn, Co Antrim, on Monday, spending almost £1m.

The humper total marks the largest food takings for any M&S on a single day anywhere in its world-wide chain. Andrew Keating, manager of the store, said people started queuing before 7am, when the store opened, and were still arriving when it closed - 15 hours later.

Christmas Day was BT's busiest day of the year - and yes-terday's dialling looked set to beat last year's total of nine million hours' worth of calls around the world, and in particular in Australia, Canada, the US, New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland and the Caribbean.

BT was expecting an increase of 10 per cent on the 47,229,687 calls made last year on the 25th when 33 million calls were local, 13 million regional and just over a million international. The average call length was 12 minutes, compared to the usual 2-to-5 minutes of a

Meanwhile, Heathrow airport was experiencing its quietest day of the year. Staff njoyed a hreak as a mere 41,000 passengers passed through the arrival and depar-



Snow-go: Mountain bikes, courtesy of Santa, were given a thorough testing in the snow on the Yorkshire moors yesterday, as London had its first white Christmas for 20 years

# Blair targets Tory funds

Political Editor

Lord Nolan to be asked to investigate controversial donations to party coffers

The issue of Conservative Party funding will be referred to the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life if Tony Blair wins the next election: There has been consider-

able disquiet and anxiety on both sides of the Commons for many years about the way in which the Tories have raised funds.

Donations have included £50,000 from Timg Chee-bwa, a 59-year-old shipping tycoon chosen by the Chinese Communist Party to head Hong Kong's first post-colonial gov-ernment; £250,000 from Mohamed Al Fayed before the 1987 general election; and £440,000, later found to have been stolen, from fugitive busi-

a thorough overhaul of party fi-

initial inquiry." Last May, Mr Blair asked John Major to widen the remit of the Nolan Committee, "so that the funding of all political parties could be looked at in a

Affairs Committee, and that was

nessman Asil Nadir.

Nolan Committee to make the

proper and impartial manner." Refusing that request, the Prime Minister told him that the matter had already been investigated by the Commons Home

But Mr Blair will not leave it at that, if elected. He told Mr Major that if the governing party rejected the demand for

nior Labour sources believe that, "ouce the stone is turned over, all sorts of mnck will crawl out."

While the 1994 Home Affairs Committee inquiry was kept on a tight leash by the inbuilt Conservative majority, a minority report by Labour MP Chris Mullin pulled no punches in its description of the sleaze that could be exposed by a thorough

public investigation. Labour refuses all foreign donations, but Sir Norman Fowler, then Conservative Party chair-

ermment next spring when be want this country to continue as will be ready for fresh meats So- a free enterprise economy and want to support a free enterprise party.

account in Jersey." The report added: "Botnar hegan his association with the

of the Commons, told The evitable question that everyone Committee that he would not when he was lobbying for an end ists connected with 76 compa-Independent yesterday: "After the election, there will have to be hide?" want to spurn gifts from people who "may well have business inwho may well have business in-stricted the volume of Japanese Lord Nolan is scheduled to terests in this country [and] cars that could be imported into £17.4 million to the Conservanancing and it will be for the finish looking into local gov- perhaps take the view that they the UK ... Mr Botnar is now

> However, the Mullin Report was far more critical. It quoted a former Tory party treasurer, Lord McAlpine, talking of offshore accounts, and recalled a "launder" gifts.
> It also touched on the most 1993 Independent report that Octav Botnar, a former head of Nissan UK, had in the early

1980s "channelled large donations to the Conservative Party through an off-shore bank

wanted in the UK on allegations that he was involved in a huge tax fraud.

The Mullin Report also cited Independent reports about donations made through covert companies, used to disguise the destination of the cash, and other bodies that were used to

difficult allegation, of "a relationship between political donations and honours", saying "Between the election of Mrs Thatcher in 1979 and the 1993 New Year's honours, 18 life peerages and 82 knighthoods have been given to industrial-

over the same period donated tive Party and its front organisations But Mr Mullin also drew links between donations and privatised companies; donations

from British-domiciled foreign businessmen who receive generous tax treatment; and the election-time availability of prime-site advertising billboards, and the Conservative Government's treatment of the tobacco and hrewing industries that control them.

Conservatives were reported to have a £19m deficit. They are believed to have about £20m to

spend on the next election. The secrecy of Conservative funding is so great that even members of the party's Board of Finance are kept in the dark about where the money comes from, and where it goes.

In evidence to the Home Affairs Committee, Eric Chalker, a member of the Conservative Board of Finance between 1989 and 1993, said that "over £67m of expenditure was recorded by Conservative Central Office in that time, but nobody had to account for one penny of it."

#### Ann Taylor, Shadow Leader impartial investigation, "the in- man, told the Home Affairs Conservatives in the 1970s Why did the blue-eyed woman with long black hair blow herself up and kill two others at midnight mass?

A Christmas Eve service in a Frankfurt church ended in carnage when a woman blew herself up, killing herself and two of the congregation. German police issued a photograph yesterday of the severed head of a woman, with blue eyes and long black hair, believed to be responsible for the at-

tack. She appears to have left no note.
Yesterday, as investigators sifted through
the church and heard the testimonies of shocked witnesses, the only clue was a misshapen torso and the unknown head blast ed clear of the body. What lay inside the head to ordain the extinction of three lives may never be known.

The suspect, aged about 30, was thought to have detonated two hand-grenades strapped to her body, just as the Lutheran congregation began to sign the first hymn during the late-night service. Two sisters, aged 59 and 61, who were sitting near her, died instantly. Thirteen people were injured, including a mother and her 12-year-old daughter, who were in critical condition in

hospital last night. Investigators were confident that the attack was not linked to terrorism or politics. The evidence indicates that she was disrurbed and wanted to kill herself in a spec-

tacular action," said a police spokesman. The suspect entered the small church in the working class suhurh of Sindlingen, shortly after the pastor opened the service at 11pm. She sat in the third pew from the back, and although it was warm inside, she did not remove her coat. Wimesses recall seeing her sitting still, with ber face shrouded by a scarf, her eyes apparently fixed on

the Christmas tree next to the pulpit. The grenades went off as the 70-strong congregation rose to sing, 15 minutes into the service. Worshippers at the front of the



Aftermath: Splintered pews and debris in the aisle of the church Photograph: AP

church recalled hearing a muffled bang behind them. By the time they had swung around, the orderly rows in the back had become unrecognisable. Crumpled blue hymn sheets littered the floor. The pews had been reduced to splinters, covered with hroken bodies. The red carpet in the aisle was torn up, with blood-soaked garments lying scattered in the middle. A pair of twisted spectacles had been propelled across the hall. And the white walls were splattered

with charred buman remains. The worshippers, mostly local people who knew each other well, fled in panie from the church, only to run back, fearing that the attack bad come from outside. "At this point we can only speculate about the cause of this criminal act," said Manfred Feist, the city's police spokesman. "The ev-

idence indicates that she was disturbed and

wanted to kill herself in a spectacular action."

Frankfurt's police chief, Wolfhard Hnff-mann, said: "I have no idea who could have done such a thing on a day like this. We are completely baffled."

A baby boy born nn Christmas Eve froze to death while his homeless mother wandered through the German city of Goettingen looking for a warm place to stay, police said yesterday. Wrapped in a hlanket, the boy was cold

finally reached a homeless shelter to escape the icy night, a spokesman said. She had given birth only hours earlier in a deserted house in the university city and the boy at first seemed healthy, she told

and lifeless when his 28-year-old mother

A doctor who hurried to the shelter could only pronounce the infant dead and determine there were no signs of any violence on the corpse, the spokesman said.

#### QUICKLY

Queen looks forward In traditional Christmas speeches vesterday the Queen urged people not to dwell on the past but to look forward to the future, while the Archhishop nf Canterbury looked hack on some of the tragic events of the

Bishop's protest
The Bishop of Lincoln refused to preach his Christmas sermon

in his own cathedral yesterday. The Rt Rev Robert Hardy's move was the latest demonstration of the struggles between the cathedral's dean. Dr Brandon Jackson, and almost everyone he works with.

Settlers defiant Defiant Jewish settlers, angry at

the prospect of a peace deal between Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat, plan to flood Hebron with thousands of sympathisers. They want to resist the redeployment of Israeli troops from the city.

Sporting best In tomorrow's Independent we publish a 20-page special sports section with all the best of the Boxing Day action.

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Two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia have told a British embassy official they are tired but are being treated

The British consul Lawson Ross visited Deborah Parry, 41, from the Midlands, and Lucille McLauchlan, 31, from Scotland, for the first time on Christmas Eve. Mr Ross arranged for the two women to speak to their families over the phone and discussed details of

legal representation with them. The access to the women came after 48 hours of intense diplomatic pressure following their arrest after Foreign Office efforts failed to secure their release. They spent Christmas Day in Dhahran Central Prison and could face public beheading if found guilty of murder, although sources said the death penalty would he unlikely. A spokesman for the Foreign

Office said embassy officials would be putting them in touch with a number of legal experts in Dhahran.The two Britons have been formally charged with the murder of Yvonne Gilford on 11 December. Human rights activists say the Saudi record on justice is one of the worst in the world. Almost 70 people - none of them European - have been beheaded this year alone. It is the form of execution regularly used in mur-

Miss Gilford was found dead in her room at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran, where all three women worked. The 55-year-old senior theatre nurse had been stabbed four times, battered with a hammer and smothered. She moved to Saudi Arabia six months ago from South Africa because she thought it was a safer country.

Nursing unions in Scotland said they had no record of the nurse named as Lucille McLauchlan and there was no indication of where in Scotland she may have originated.

A report that a 31-year-old nurse called Lucille McLauchlan was dismissed from a Dundee hospital where she was training in May this year was confirmed last night in a statement from Dundee Teaching Hospitals. But the statement added: "Dundee Teaching Hospitals have no knowledge of any link between this person and any events in Saudi Arabia."



Splashing out: Swimmers braving the chill for their traditional Christmas Day dip in the Serpentine in London's Hyde Park Photograph: Emma Boam

Christmas in 55 languages but said the spirit of the nativity was marred by tensions in the Holy Land and international indif-

ference to the tragedy in Africa.

and the world) blessing and

message, the 76-year-old Pon-

tiff said Christmas meant not

being resigned to violence and

injustice but to strive to over-

come hatred and rancour and

return to dialogue. The Pontiff, who this year did

not celebrate a Christmas Day

mass for health reasons, spoke

to thousands of people gathered

under dark skies in a rainy St Pe-

ter's Square.
"The echo of the songs of

Christmas must travel much farther," he said, "It must re-

sound beyond walls where the.

clash of arms is still heard,

shattering the spell of peace hrought by this holy day." The Pope, celebrating his 19th Christmas season as leader

to Bosnia, Guatemala and else-

where, it was elusive in many

The Pontiff, who has suffered

from a series of health prob-

lems, celebrated a solemn mid-

night mass in St Peter's Basilica,

12 hours before his address.

In his Urbi et Orbi (to the city

## Queen skirts round Dunblane controversies

Kate Watson-Smyth and Clare Garner

The Queen yesterday nrged people not to dwell on the past but to look forward to the future, while the Archhishop of Canterbury looked back on some of the tragic events of the year and called for a return to Christian values.

In her traditional Christmas message, hroadcast from Sandringham, Her Majesty hailed President Nelson Mandela as an example of "how to accept the facts of the past without hitter-

"His example is a continuing inspiration to the whole Commonwealth and to all those everywhere who work for peace and reconciliation," she said. The address came at the end of another troubled year for the

Royals, as the Queeo headed a family gathering minus her sons' ex-wives and warned against recriminations over personal or political problems. "Each year brings its share of

difficulties for many families," the Queen noted. This year has, I know, heen oo exception: fered bereavement of a tragic and shocking kind," she added, in an apparent reference to the Dunblane massacre in

The Queen appeared to skirt around controversy sparked by Prince Philip last week, when he said British laws banning most handguns, introduced since the re, were an over-reaction and guns were no more dangerous than cricket bats.

"At such times, it is tempting for all of us, especially those who suffer, to look back and say 'If only," she said. "But to look back in that way is to look down a blind alley."

In his Christmas Day sermon at Canterhury Cathedral, Dr George Carey urged people to face up to their spiritual needs as well as material ones.

"In our society, that feels at times so adrift from its moral, historical and institutional roots. I detect an increasing desire in people to find a spiritual home," he said. We have seen it expressed

this year, in the response to the killings at Dunblane and to the murder of Philip Lawrence. "It has been there too in the debates on morality and the call for our Millennium Celebra-

tions to he something much

more than a trade fair or a street He urged the congregation to embark on a "spiritual journey towards God" to find the fulfilment they were looking for. In Rome, Pope John Paul Holidays without pay rise by 20% in four years Anthony Bevins Political Editor

The number of people working without paid holidays has increased by almost a fifth since 1992, according to a Commons library analysis of Government

Ian McCartney, Labour employment spokesman, yesterday used the analysis to condemn Government obstruction of the European working time directive, which would give employees the right to three weeks paid holiday each year.

'It is a disgrace that ministers are denying millions of people the right to a paid day off, whilst they enjoy a Christmas break themselves," he said. The Commons is on Christmas holidays until 13 January.

According to the Commons library analysis of the official Labour Force Survey, the number of people without paid hol-iday entitlement has risen from... I,975,000 to 2,358,000 since 1992, representing 10.7 per cent of the British workforce. If Northern Ireland is included, the overall proportion rises to

of the world's 960 million Ro-man Catholics, said that while the past year had brought peace more than half of the 424,000 men working part-time get no paid holiday. He said: "Far fr

party of the family, the Tories are preventing many families from spending a proper holiday together, simply because their bread winner is not entitled to

paid time off. Not giving staff damages performance at work." "Britons already work the longest hours in Europe, often for the lowest pay. Without a paid holiday, many people are forced to work not just anti-social hours, but on holidays as well, just to make ends meet. It's about time we all had a rest from this hypocritical Tory goverument and its sweat shop

Following a ruling by the European Court, insisting on British implementation of the Working Time Directive, the Government is currently consulting business and industry before introducing legislation.

There is a suspicion at Westminster that the new law might be delayed until after the election, enabling the Conservatives to use it as a campaign weapon, arguing that Labour favours the job losses that would allegedly result from its introduction.

Labour Health spokes-

woman Tessa Jowell yesterday issued a report showing the ex-tent to which the Government has distanced itself from the management of the National Health Service - with details of 50 key areas that are no longer being monitored by Whitehall. It is now commonplace for en Dorrell, the Secretar of State for Health, to answer many factual Commons ques-

tions with the reply that the in-

formation requested is not held

"centrally" by the Government.

significant shorts

#### **Yeltsin vows** to pay overdue

Addressing the nation for the first time since returning to the Kremlin on Monday after his recovery from heart surgery, President Boris Yeltsin yesterday pledged to pay back-wages and to "awaken" sluggish bureaucrats
who have failed to collect the

necessary tax revenues. Mr Yeltsin said in a radio address that it was essential that the government start paying state workers and retirees who have gone months without their regular cheques. "I know how hard life is for Russian families," he

#### Woman found Prison officers in Northern dead in cell

A young woman has been found dead in her cell at a jail where five inmates have 15 months, it was disclosed

Vale Prison, Stirling, into the death, which happened on Christmas Eve. The body of 22-year-old Yvonne Gilmour, from Glasgow, was found in her cell at the prison's Bravo hlock at 11pm. It is understood that prison bosses are treating the death as suicide. Earlier this year prison inspectors issued a damning report on Cornton Vale following a series of deaths there

Ms Gilmour was serving a three-month sentence imposed at Glasgow Sheriff Court on 8 December for assault, shoplifting and breach of the peace.

#### House fire kills mother

Police are investigating a "suspicious" house fire in which a young mother died

early yesterday. The 34-year-old woman, who has not been named, died when the fire broke out at her family's semi-detached home in the Bushbury area of Wolverhampton, West Midlands, shortly after 2am. A 33-year-old man and two children escaped and were being treated in hospital.

#### £15m revamp for 'poor' housing estate

A run-down housing estate, with "high levels" of poverty, has been given a £15m Christmas present which will include a new swimming poul and fitness centre.
Some £2.5m over five years

will come from the Government's Single Regeneration Challenge Fund, with £4m from Oxford City Council and £5m from the Housing Corporation and the Oxford Citizen's Housing Association. The balance will be paid by private companies and other organisations. Work is set to start in the new year.

#### IRA warning

Ireland have been told to righten personal security after an IRA bomh warning. The alert came when the

IRA claimed to have left a bomh under a prison officer's car at the Maze prison, Lisburn, County Antrim. No An immediate investigation device was found, however; has been launched at Cornton the caller said the bomb had either failed to explode or had fallen off the vehicle.

#### Britons to walk on Arctic sea

Two British explorers are hoping to become the first men to walk unsupported across the frozen Arctic Ocean. Dr Stephen Martin and David Mitchell plan to begin their trek in the spring.

" 16°.

Hauling supply sledges weighing 375lbs, they hope to raise £1m for the David Shepherd Conservation Foundation, which saves large mammals in the wild.

#### **RIP: Marine** rests in pub

Friends of former Royal Marine Kenny Brown
yesterday carried out his final
wish by spreading his ashes
outside the pub he loved best.
Bruce Carnall, manager of the Stanhope Hotel in South Shields, said that Mr Brown, 46, who died of pneumonia on 16 December, "wanted his ashes scattered so that every time it rains, people will trample him through the bar".

#### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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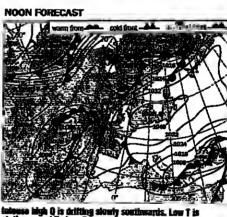
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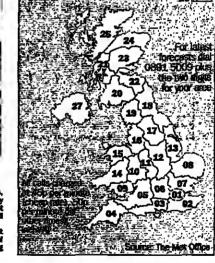
To obtain £6 000 cashback, a mortgage of £142,000 and three eligible insurance products are required, used on an indowness mortgage of £40,000 on a property valued at £60,000 repayable after 25 years (300 morthly payments) to finance a home purchase could be aged 27 and female aged 25 years). Morthly payments at TSE3 standard sanable citie, currently £25% (APR £5%) would be £214.48. Total after £112,738. APR and TAP: include hypical lengthese £110 Examples assumes TSE Property Plus. TSE MortgageSure (normal minimum term 1 respectively) and a TSE Homerburger Polary turns been taken and a cash sum of £1.695 has been taken as an attemptive to a one year discount of 4,74%. For

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AIR QUALITY

# The season of ill-will

Bishop stays away from cathedral for first time in 100 years as Lincoln feud runs deeper

Flam Les

Andrew Brown Religious Affairs Correspondent

On the day of good will to all men, there was little to be found in Lincoln. For the first time in more than a century, the Bishop of that diocese refused to preach his Christmas sermon in his own cathedral.

Instead, the Rt Rev Robert Hardy took to the pulpit in the parish church of Welbourne, a village 10 miles south. It was the test demonstration of struggles setween the cathedral's dean, Dr Brandon Jackson, and al-

most everyone he works with. The Bishop's theme was the futility of rushing around at Christmas time: we do not need to hurry to God; He has come down to meet us. The Bishop did not refer to any world trouhles nor the scandals at his cathedral; he did not need to. The row is infamous, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and most the nf cathedral staff urging Dean Jackson in resign.
Bishop Hardy had heen

scheduled to preach at the 9.30am service at Lincoln Cathedral yesterday. Instead, Cannn Andrew Stokes gave a sermon, on ways to deal with anger. The message of Good Friday and the reconciliation between man and God describe how to deal with increasing anger, which manifests itself in problems like road rage, he said. Rage has characterised exchanges between Lincoln's clergy in recent years. The appeals for resignations have become more and more desperate. Yet it all started so well. When Dean Jackson was appointed Dean in 1989, he came with a reputation as a moderniser and efficient administrator, which was, Margaret Thatcher had been told, just what the cathe-dral needed. "There'll be blood on the carpet before he's done," she is meant to have said when she chose him. The source of this story is uncertain, but it is

RIE

reside

almost certainly the dean. He was an early media vicar and was religious adviser to Yorkshire Television 1969-79. In 1995, as he faced a consistory niche that suited him down to a modern constitution which court over allegations of an inche that suited him down to a modern constitution which means the provost, the equivalent of the dean, runs it. At Linmale parishioner, he was described by his friend the Bishop of Ripon as "the epitome of a Christian gendeman" and this seems to have been pretty much

his own opining too. at Lincoln he was always avail-able to visiting journalists, and



her. He was acquitted after a

three-day trial held in the old-

est purpose-built hmatic asylum

n Britain. At a press conference

he accused the Bishop of being

part of a conspiracy against

him, and demand that he resign.

For most of last winter Dr

dean to resign. Dr Jackson ap-

parently agreed in principle, but

demanded financial compen-

sation and an assurance that

Canon Davis would quit at the

same time. This last condition

appears to have been dropped.

Last week his solicitor said he

Pulpit protest: Bishop Hardy he preached yesterday instead of at his cathedral, because of the dispute

who had worked at the World Council of Churches and who had originally also been re-garded as a moderniser.

Ordination of Women, But in the mediacval constitution of

and neither can be removed except by death or a criminal trial. So far as we know, murder has not been attempted over the past seven tears. Everything else has been, from criminal His wife, Caroline, was a else has been, from criminal leader of the Movement for the proceedings to archiepiscopal exportations.

Dean Jackson came from

Lincoln cathedral, he found a Bradford Cathedral, which has

It all started so well ... but the appeals for resignations have become more and more desperate

ing had disturbed the balance of power between the dean and the four residentiary canons able to visiting journalists, and told them far more than they could print. They were his main allies in his struggle against the sub-dean and treasurer, can stop the other running it: light and the sub-dean and treasurer, can stop the other running it: ly members, to an internation-the late of the cannot be sub-deal that cannot be sub-deal and treasurer. The took the cathedral's copy of the Magna dean nor the rest of the chapcard the cathedral but each the cathedral but each the cathedral but each that the cathedral's copy of the Magna dean nor the rest of the chapcard the cathedral but each that the cathedral's copy of the Magna dean nor the rest of the chapcard the cathedral but each that the cathedral's copy of the Magna dean nor the rest of the chapcard the cathedral but each the cathedra

constitution had been made in coln he needed a reason to force 1529. It failed Since then, noth- out chapter members he regarded as obstructive - which, it became clear, meant them all.

He thought he had found it is own opinion too. who form the governing body of when accounts came to light of in the early years of his fend the cathedral with him. The a fund-raising trip to Australia that Canon Davis had under-

al exhibition for six months. At the end of that time, the Cathedral had lost £56,000 on the

Dean Jackson called in the Fraud Squad and gave the story to the press. Canon Davis refused to resign, and reported The Bishop refused.
him to the Press Council. The
For most of last Bishop mounted an invest tion which concluded after a year that the whole chapter should resign, with the Dean. All refused. The two men at the heart of the matter went to counselling together for a year. The counsellors gave up, as did the Frand Squad. During the first years of the decade, Dean Jackson managed to rid himself of all the original chapter mem-

bers except Cannn Davis. In an entirely related development, a commission under Lady Howe was set up to examine government of English cathedrals, and recommended reforms which will prevent any cathedral clergy hanging on the their jobs in the face of such uni-

Europe blocks duty-free drinks for the troops

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Duty-free drink and other tax free-perks enjoyed by UK-based Communwealth troops for more than 40 years are being killed off by Brussels.

The perks were introduced under Royal Prerogative in the late 1940s, and were then incorporated in the Visiting Furces Act 1952.

But Customs and Excise has recently discovered that two Brussels directives restrict relief from value-added tax and excise duties to Nato forces only, and that the Government has been acting illegally for at least nine

Faced with the problem of how to "regularise the legal po-sition of the United Kingdom in relation to EC law, the Treasury asked the European Commission for an exemption or "derogation" - for the Commonwealth forces, "to enable the United Kingdom to continue affording reliefs to non-Nato Commonwealth forces from taxes and duties".

Philip Oppenheim, Exchesaid earlier this month that the UK is considering how best to work towards a compromise,

But it would appear that he has little chance of success - and Commonwealth forces are facing a bill estimated at up to £1 m in duty on their alcoholic drink, tobacco, and fuel hills, as well as VAT on all purchases.

Mr Oppenheim told MPs; The Brussels Commission has recommended that the Council Infeconomic and finance ministers] reject the UK application for a derogation ...

"The commission asserts that such a derogation would not be restricted to one member state but would apply throughout the community and would entail a change in relevant directives.

"In the commission's opinion the procedure must be applied with constraint."

But as the final decision requires unanimity, taking only one minister to vote against, it is unlikely the Commonwealth

## Nerds with a problem find that assistance is off-line

A telephone line operating out of a small industrial estate in the Midlands is likely to be the most overloaded number in Britain this Christmas. It is one of the main chain store's computer-software helplines. And it is jammed most of the time. I know, because I have been trying to get through. The tree fairy arrived early, in Novem-

ber, with a personal computer promising "effortless access to all the fantastic builtin software and on-line facilities" for adults and children alike". The Packard Bell executive multi-media, packed with £1,000 of software installed in the factory, will be one of the best sellers this Christ-mas, and "adults and children alike" will be dialling the help number.

It was comforting to see it flashing on the screen as I prepared to plunge into the world of PC nerds. I had a bewildering range of options - take a virtual-reality trip around the Louvre, explore the sea with a dolphin, make my own Batman and Robin cartoon, play the computer chess, learn French with Asterix, or enter the Internet through Planet Oasis. But I had a more mundane task first: to write a report and file it to the Independent. I had been doing this without a hitch on a laptop, and knew there was something to do with a thing called a modern before I could hook up.

I looked up modem in the quick-start guide. It offered advice on how to send a fax from Windows 95, from paper, how to access the Internet. Page 64 was headed: using a modern; underneath was a section on fax/modem set-up and diagnostics. It seemed pretty straightforward. "Clicking Start, Settings, Control Panel and Modems successively brings you in the Modems Properties screen." That is where I made my first mistake. I entered the right dial-up numbers, sat back, and waited for the



Computer helpline promises are not what they seem, writes **Colin Brown** 

connection. I got an irritating "bing" be-fore being told the other modem was not responding. It was clear from the noise emanating from my twin speakers that it had responded. Sumething was wrong.

responded. Samething was wrong.

I twiddled with the settings, and got nowhere. Then I remember again. Still engaged. I tried again. Still engaged. I tried at night. Engaged. I tried in the morning. Engaged. I tried another number for Packard Bell. They advised me to ring another number. It was the same number I started with. And it was still engaged. I continued fiddling with the settings. I continued fiddling with the settings.

Bored, I tried the Internet. Now I ran into real trouble. An error sign said I had committed an illegal act! Worse, the computer moaned "Oh, no" – a noise which sounded as if it was borrowed from the

Simpsons television cartoon.

I tried the help line at all hours of the day. It was constantly engaged. Things were getting pretty desperate. Child's play had defeated me.

As the days grew into a week, I tried at all times of the day and the evening to get through. The constant beeping of the engaged tone was beginning to disturb my sleep. I woke at four one morning and finally snapped. I telephoned the helpline. Outside, the moon was up. Britain was gen-tly sleeping. And the call was answered. The software expert was all caring, like

a Samaritan helper for suicidal computer nerds. "We do get pretty busy. The busiest times are at the weekend. It usually gets busy again at about 8am, and then all day until about lam. Then it tails off a bit." Sleepless computer nerds all over Britain

were queuing up even now but he listened to the problem and suggested the simplest solution would be to start from the beginning again, by restoring all the software to the factory settings by using the master disk. Since then, I have not looked back. I discovered the modem I was using was the

wrong one "I should have used something called the "Hyper Terminal". There are still a few problems. I still cannot find the £ sign in the word-processing system.

And every time I try to call up the CD system in the Navigator room, I get the following message: Unable to launch c:\text{voyetra\text{voyetra\text{windata\text{a}}} and iosta.exe. But who cares? I can phone the software helpline again. I will not give you the num-

ber it will only add to their queues.

PREPARE

Lambeth Palace and that Dr

Jackson will probably leave in the new year. "I'll believe it when I see it," said a member

of the bishop's staff. Asked

whether Bishop Hardy gave good sermons, Mary Jackson,

wife of Dean Jackson, said: "If

I said what I thought, I wouldn't

STORM

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The world's foremost authority speaks out on the subject of greed.



Lust and gluttony are the least deadly of the Seven Deadly Sins, according to the first detailed medical analysis of the transgressions, which highlights their positive qualities.

Lust drives people to create, to achieve, to make themselves as attractive as possible, and

even unrequited lust has its good points, it is claimed. WB Yeats's frustrated passion for Maude Gonne is cited as a pertinent example of the benefits of lust, inspiring as it did "the greatest body of love po-etry in the English language," according to Dr Liam Farrell, a GP from Crossmaglen in Northern Ireland and the man

charged with the analysis of lust

by the British Medical Journal. In the current issue Dr Farrell quotes from The Song of Wan-dering Aengus: "It had become a glimmering girl/With apple blossom in her hair/Who called me by my name and ran/And faded in the brightening air," and asks "Would a few good bard shags right at the start of their relationship have deprived us of these sublime and unfor-

gettable verses? As Balzac said (afterwards), There goes another good novel'.

Hard sell: Harper's magazine in the US approached les

Professor John Garrow, a good things to say about gluttony (and to a lesser extent sloth), pointing out that the op-posites of these are asceticism and hyperactivity. "I would not mind people around me being hyperactive, so long as their mo-

tives were purged of the other deadly sins, but asceticism, restraint, or self denial are not characteristics that I would welcome in my associates and still less deeply in myself," he says. Professor Garrow says that of the Seven Deadly Sins, the penalties of gluttony fall upon the sinners themselves, while pride, wrath, envy, lust, or avarice, "probably make life

Dr Simon Wessley, of the Department of Psychological Med-icine at King's College School of Medicine, says that the sin of pride is now fashionable, and that many psychologists view it as a positive emotion, listing it alongside love, joy, and grati-tude. He writes: "In the film Wall

became the epitaph of the 1980s. A 1990s remake would bave Michael Douglas as a psychologist telling us that Pride is good'."

Professor James McCormick of the Department of Commu-nity Health and General Prac-tice at Trinity College, Dublin, blames the notion of sloth as a sin on the Protestant work ethic. In countries with the tradition of siesta, it is absent, he says, while time to "stand [or sit or lie and stare, time to think, is seen by others as sloth". He cites the example of one scientist who, during a discussion on the importance of new equip-ment, said: "We do not need more equipment, we oeed to think, we need a chaise longue." Professor McCormick

aments the fact that sloth has become even more deadly in recent years because the "couch potato" not only gives offence, but is known to shorten his life too. "As somebody who looks af-ter several people who are liv-ing to die the slow death of senescence, there seems to me a strong case for relatively early and speedy death. In a world where all women are taking hormone replacement therapy and all men are taking statins antiageing drugs], the possibility of peaceful myocardial infarction [heart attack] will diminish, and many more can look forward to a life 'sans teeth, sans

eyes, sans taste, sans every-thing,"

He argues that sloth is a sin only in the eye of the beholder and "we need the luxury and benefits of occasional sloth."

Greed in the medical world has little to do with mooey, ac-cording to Dr Ralph Crawshaw from Portland, Oregon, He accuses some doctors of being "time misers" who turn up for clinics late and leave early, or spend clinic time on personal Patients may be "service misers" and Alfie, played by Michael Caine in the film of the same name, is a "stunning example," Dr Crawshaw says. "The Alfies of our world have an insouciant

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lance to casualty to demand a sleeping pill or immediate treatment of chapped lips. They know their rights and use them for relentless demands."

Envy, according to Profes Louis Appleby, a psychiatrist at the Withington Hospital in Manchester, is different from the other Seven Deadly Sins, in that it is the only one that does is all resentment, ill-will, and sour grapes." In fact, he finds little that is positive to say about envy and recalls that it was Sigmund Freud's view that this state of mind "explained" women. It is not envy but jealousy that worries modern psychiatrists, he says, because it more than thought "it leads

Professor Chapman from the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine at Sydney University, asked to

Pride is now fashionable. seen as a 🐞 positive emotion alongside love and gratitude'

pontificate on wrath, prefers instead to choose someooe worthy of the wrath of doctors and public health workers. "Surely, with currently three million deaths a year to their names, it's hard to pass by the strategists within the tobacco industry as exemplary candidates for our collective wrath," Professor Chapman says. "The recent revelations about over 30 years of lying, scientific palm greasand cover-up in the interna-tional tobacco industry, for the purposes of keeping as many people smoking as possible, showed that these people have all the ethics of a cash register



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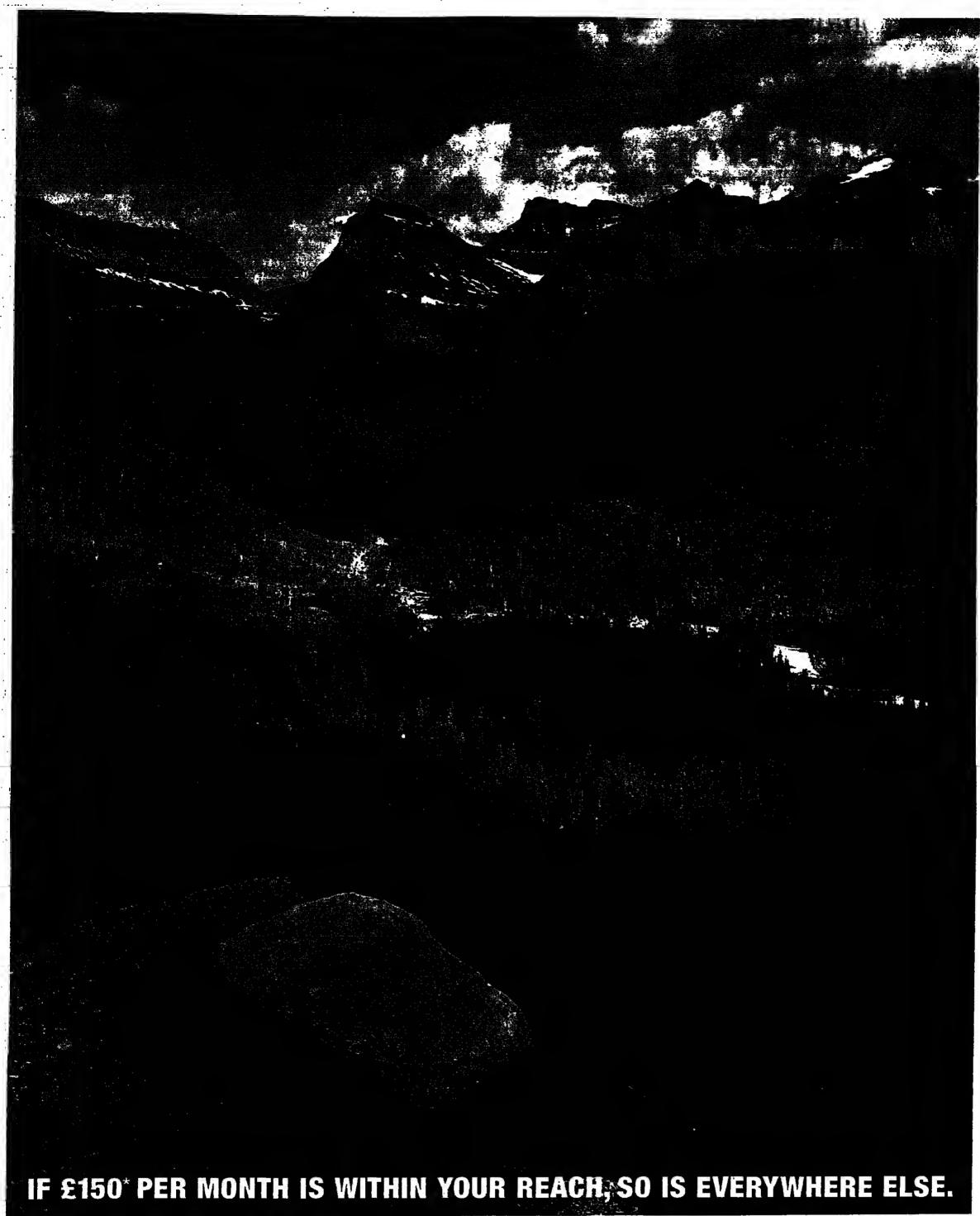
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## Settlers vow to resist Hebron troop pull-out

Defiant Jewish settlers, angry at the prospect of a peace deal be-tween Israeli and Palestinian leaders, plan to flood Hebron with thousands of sympathisers. They want to resist the redeployment of Israeli troops from the last West Bank Arab city still under occupation.

The new strategy was revealed yesterday as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators confin-ued haggling over the smallprint of a Hebron deal, agreed in broad detail at a Christmas Eve summit between their respective leaders, Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat.

A spokesman for the Israeli Prime Minister said last night that another summit was likely today at which they haped to initial an agreement. "The talks," he added, "seem to be

Furty Jewish families live among 150,000 Muslims in the centre of Hehron, the hurial place of their common anceschoose between their fundamentalisı fanaticism. Roni Shaked, whn covers the West Bank for the Tel-Aviv daily, Palestinian police. Wediot Aluaronot. predicted this to go on living here.

Agreement on West Bank withdrawal likely at today's summit. writes Eric Silver in Jerusalem

week that the new dividing line in the holy city would be "a wall of harred". Any hopes of coexistence, he argued, were doomed. The new reality is unly going to widen the gaps between the two societies."

David Wilder, a spokesman for the Hebron settlers, told The Independent: "We are going to create a situation where there will be more than the present going well." The package is expected to include a timetable for deployment. If that doesn't work, we will continue to build work, we will continue to bring more huildings and to bring more people to live here."

Asked if they contemplated more violent resistance, Mr Wilder emphasised: "We have tor, Abraham. There is little to nn plans to build a private army. We have no plans to go to war against the Israeli army. We have un plans to go to war against the Palestinian police. We do plan

As a foretaste, 20 settlers took over two empty houses in the Hebron casbah early yesterday. The casbah, adjacent to the Jewish enclave, is due to come under Palestinian rule. Mr Arafat's Palestinian Authority intends to house 600 security prisoners there on their reease from Israeli jails.

The Jewish squatters, who claimed they were preventing "terrorists" moving in, were evicted after scuffles with Israeli troops. Two Jews were charged with attacking soldiers.

Palestinian militants kept the pot boiling by tossing three petrol bombs at Israeli vehicles - an almost daily irritant dur-ing this week of accelerating diplomatic activity. Police ar-rested five Palestinians, three of them children. No casualties were reported. Fierce apposition to the He-

bron deal is crystallising within Mr Netanyahu's Likud and his partners in the ruling coalition nf right-wing and religious par-ties. Two Likud ministers, Ariel Sharon and Benny Begin, have announced they will vote against it. So have the two ministers of the National Religious Party. Mr Sharon, a retired general, condemned the deal as "a

nf the Likud's legendary founder, Menachem Begin, is ister, accused Mr Netanyahu of terrible agreement". After a

tanyahn for the party leadership. Yitzhak Shamir, the doctrinaire former Likud prime min-

the people of Israel forever, without partners," Mr Shamir told the Ma'ariv newspaper yes-

Home front: Israell police evicting Jewish settlers who occupied empty Palestinian homes in Hebron to protest at troop redeployment. Photograph: AFF

ingness to implement the Oslo accords is a fatal error. The notion that decisions of a previous government have to be fulfilled is stupid and malicious."

jority is not, however, in doubt in either the 18-member Cabirely on the support of Labour



ministerial briefing un Tues- being mentioned as a standard betraying the party's ideology. day night, he said he was "more bearer to challenge Mr Ne- "The land of Israel belongs to day night, he said he was "more bearer to challenge Mr Neworried" than ever about the sertlers' safety. Mr Begin, son

## Beatings fail to halt Belgrade protesters

Kurt Schork and Donald Forbes

Beigrade — Undannted by police beatings, opponents of Ser-Milosevic took to the streets in protest again yesterday, folowing clashes on Christmas Eve Milosevic crowds.

Five were hospitalised, including one man who remained in a critical condition after being shot in the head during the disturbances by a supporter of Mr Milosevic's ruling Socialist party (SPS).

More than a month of street protests against Mr Milosevic had gone virtually without violence until Tuesday when the SPS arranged to bus supporters into Belgrade for a rally at the same time and place as the opposition. Vuk Draskovic, leader of the opposition Serbian Renewal

Movement, said Tuesday's events let the genie of violence out of the bottle and marked "the beginning of civil war in The harder Mr Milosevic tries to shore up the credibility of his SPS as a party ruling

Serbia by popular consent, the more events conspire to prove him wrong. Another fig leaf was peeled away when Mr Milosevic's party rallied only 40,000 supporters in Belgrade under police protec-

tion no Tuesday, after boasting it would mobilise half a million. Snow, bitter temperatures, icy streets and the memory of Tuesday's running battles yesterday did little to dampen the students' enthusiasm, although their numbers were down substantially from the 200,000 who

demonstrated on the previous UN Security Council to pressure ... day. In Serbia, Christmas is celebrated on 6 January. Blowing whistles and borns

and chanting anti-Milosevic slogans, protesters snaked through the centre of the city, drawing waves and cheers of support from many onlookers in office and residential blocks along gron and Paris warned

they held Mr Milosevic responsible for Belgrade's street violence. The German Foreign Minister, Klans Kinkel, warned any further violence would dainage Serbia's efforts to reinte-

civil war in Belgrade'

grate with Europe. Western governments spent much of the last year praising Mr Milosevic as a responsible world leader for his work in support of the Bosn-

ian peace agreement.
Still firmly in control of all institutions of government, including state television, the army and police, Mr Milosevic shows nn sign of surrendering and the wars in Croatia and power voluntarily.

Diplomats say Russia would probably block any effort by the ruin.

Mr Milosevic by reimposing economic sanctions on Serbia. which were lifted earlier this year in the wake of the Bosnia

His ability to use force now has been virtually vetoed by USled Western threats of reprisals and also by hints of reluctance on the part of the security forces to get too involved.

LEST LLAW A

7 19 T. C

A SERVICE

Monitors listening to police radios during the clashes on Tuesday heard commanders ordering their men to use minimum force, even when they or SPS supporters were taking a beating fromopposition activists of the Zajedno (Together) movement.

Like everyone else who works for the Serbian state, the police are paid only when the government can find the cash and therefore have less interest in preserving it. The army, which used tanks to save Mr Milosevic and quell anti-government protests that cost two lives in 1991, has stayed silently on the sidelines in 1996.

The idea that the SPS might ditch Mr Milosevic rests nn the theory that the thousands of party members who hold every worthwhile job in the state apparatus and the economy, have too much to lose to relinquish

Their wealth has been milked from the labour and looted from the bank accounts of ordinary Serbs, as Zajednn nev-

er tires of telling its supporters.
Out of power, they would be held accountable for the destruction of former Yugoslavia Bosnia which have reduced Serbia's people to economic

## Hope grows of deal on Peru hostages

Phil Davison Latin America Correspondent

Outside, carol singers sang Silent Night and relatives prayed Inside, 105 Latin American and Asian hostages said Mass under the guns of their Marxist captors.

It was a grim Christmas for the hostages in the besieged Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima, Peru. They had spent Christmas Eve in almost water and phone lines still cut.

The hostages include Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori's brother, Pedro, foreign minister Francisco Tudela, Peru's anti-terrorism chief, several judges, six ambassadors and dozens of Japanese execu-

the Tupac Amaru Liberation (MRTA) movement were said

ing no sign of backing down on their demands for the release of several hundred jailed comrades, transport to safety and an unspecified ransom figure.

The Peruvian government reacted angrily yesterday in the news that Uruguay had apparently done a deal with the hostage takers, releasing two jailed Tupac members in return for the freeing by the guerrillas of its amhassador to Peru, Tabare Bocalandro, un Christcomplete darkness, with power. mas Eve. Peru withdrew its acting ambassador to Uruguay in protest at the move.

The possibility of a deal being struck with the guerrillas could be significant. Firstly, it was the first concession they had won since storming the Japanese ambassador's reception ives.
The estimated 16 guerrillas of the Tupac Amaru Liberation going on, presumably through the International Red Cross, de-

Perhaps most importantly, it suggested that the guerrillas are in negotiation with their pris-oners. Diplomats say that could mean multi-milling dollar ransoms from the Japanese companies whose executives they are bolding.

Speculation is growing that

the guerrillas are negotiating a deal under which they and at least some of the hostages are flown to Cuba, where President Fidel Castro is known to support their Marxist views, Under that theory, Mr Castro, it is be-lieved, would receive a cut of the ransom money in return for weapnns and help in re-infiltrating Peru.

Moscow (AP) - President

Yeltsin yesterday proposed that the G7 grnup of leading industrialised nations, together with Russia, should send to be looking fresh and show- spite the hard-line statements by anti-terrorist forces to Peru.



homeworks

## An expert's guide to the bargain trail

It's a great time to liven up your wardrobe or add some style to your home. But you'll need a strategy. Here are details of what's on offer, plus some tips from the professionals. Compiled by Abigail Raynor

**FASHION** Now running:

Kate Jones At 28 St Christopher's Place, London W1. Cool, cut-price hipster miniskirts are down to £71 from £95 and pretty baby-doll dresses are reduced from £125 to £93.

At 136 Fulham Road, London SW10 (0171-835 1327). Prices are reduced by 25 per cent on labels such as Strenesse and MaxMara, Best bargains are Schober suits, reduced from £750 to £300.

Blazer (Moss Bross Group) At stores nationwide. Blazer pure-wool suits make excellent bargains at £125, down from £250, and pure cotton shirts are equally easy to snap up at £19.50, down from the original price

Racing Green Until 11 Jan, at 33 King Street, Manchester (0161-835 2022) and branches in Glasgow and Kingstonupon-Thames. Discounts of 25-50 per cent will be made at the stores and on mail-order. H&M Hennes

At branches nationwide. Ronit Zilkha

At branches across London. There is a 50 per cent discount on selected items. The star bargain is the daisyprint silk satin shirt, reduced from £159 to £80. From 27 Dec onwards: Austin Reed

Starts 27 Dec at branches nationwide. Men can get their single-breasted two- and three-button suits in stylish winter colours and wools reduced from £299 to £199, barn coats are down from £169 to £99 and there is a 25 per cent discount on cotton shirts. For women, fashion shirts are available at less than 50 per cent of the usual price and twill trousers, usually £49, are £29.95.

"You should go feeling very open-minded"

Deboralt Shaw, personal shopping consultant, Harvey Nictions At sale time it's great to pur something outrageous, that you wouldn't nountally bey, such as wouldn't notatelly-bin, such as a new party outfit for those times when you get sick or all your everyday clothes. Tornally wear Calvin Klein or Alige Klein or Alige Klein funditional tenden dresser - but during the sales will buy Anne Demeulemesser and Jean-Paul Gamilles.

Think it say mistake to play anead with Sales, you shall be recling very copen minded, and that way you are more likely so buy something that more borne level to your windows. I never get stressed out because think it's assissable to do not a think it's adjustible to do four hours of stoboling over the days because it can be so exhaustings:

**Betty Jackson** Starts 27 Dec and continues into mid-Jan, at 311 Brompton Road, London SW3. Cashmere polo sweaters are reduced from £599 to £298; black leather three-quarter-length trench coats from £845 to £422

Starts 27 Dec and continues for 4-5 weeks, at 15 Shorts Gardens, London WC2 (0171-240 6694). Discounts of up to 50 per cent.

Starts 2 Jan and continues for 3-4 weeks at 16 B Grafton Street. London W1 (0171-409 1721). Discounts of 20-50 per cent on some lingerie brands including Aubade, La Peria, Chantal Thomoss and Dolce &

Burberry

Starts 27 Dec at all Burberry outlets. Womenswear bargains include raincoats, reduced from £450 to £295. trench coats, down from £595 to £375, Bodmin raincoats, reduced from £395 to £275. hlazers, cut from £375 to £195. Discounts on menswea are also good: raincoats, from £425 to £295, and blazers, from £325 to £185. There are also generous reductions on accessories such as silk squares and cashmere scarves.

Starts 27 Dec and continues for 4 weeks, at West 1 Shopping Centre, 379 Oxford Street, London W1, and al all stores nationwide (0321 287866). Almost everything will be marked down; discounts of up to 50 per cent on many lines. Cashmere Studio

Starts 27 Dec, at 10 Sloane Street, London SWI (0171-245 9111). For the best bargains check out ladies' ultra-fine one-ply classic mock-turtle and rollneck sweaters, down from £129 to £89, and Murrey Allen cashmeres, reduced by 50 per cent.

Cerruti 1881 Menswear sale starts 28 Dec, at 26 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-493 2278) Cerruti 1881

Womenswear sale 27-31 Dec, at 106 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-495 5880). Ciro pearls Runs 27 Dec-31 Jan, at 61A Bromptoo Road, London SW3 (0171-589 5584). Discounts of 50 per cent

on fine costume jewellery. From 27 Dec, continues for 3 weeks, at 19 Avery Row, London W1. Discounts of 30-50 per cent on

selected items. Best bargains include wool fiannel three-piece suits, reduced from £395 to £270; moleskin jackets, from £169 to £120; moleskin cans, from £95 to £65; full-length leather crombies, from £485 to £300: jersey tops in navy, charcoal and black, from £40 to £25. **Dorothy Perkins** 

Starts 26 Dec in Scotland and 27 Dec in England, at West 1 Store, 379 Oxford Street, London W1, and branches nationwide.

Starts 27 Dec, at 191 Brompton Road, London SW3 (0171-823 8818) and at stores across London. Sales in Manchester and Glasgow start Dec 28.

Starts 27 Dec, nationwide. Discounts of up to 50 per cent on winter stock. Giorgio Armani Starts 27 Dec, at 37 Sloane Street,

London SW1 (0171-235 6232). Hobbs Starts 27 Dec at branches nationwide.

Runs 27 Dec-31 Jan, at 30 Burlington Arcade, London SW3 (0171-499 136) SW3 (0171-584 1985). Reductions of 50 per cent on jewellery. The Kingshill Designer Catalogues

Runs 2-20 Jan. Discounts of 50 per cent, including items from the current Christmas catalogue (01494 890555). Starts 26 Dec in Scotland, Warrington and shops within Sainsbury's

Homebase House and Garden Centres, 27 Dec in all other shops within the UK and Republic of Ireland (0990 622116). MCM at Harrods 8 Jan-1 Feb at Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Discounts of 50 per cent on some items, Best buys include wool double-

breasted black jackets, reduced from £294 to £99, unfortunately available

only in size 38. MCM Runs 8 Jan-1 Feb at 4 Old Bond Street, London W1. Some items will be reduced by 50 per cent but bargains of the sale are two ski-snits, one in black one in white, priced at £375, down from £750. Monsoon

Starts 27 Dec, at 23 The Market, London WC2, and at stores nationwide. Discounts of up to 50 per cent. Look out for panne veivet column dresses, reduced from £85 to £55; silk shantung frock coats, down from £125 to £75 with matching trousers, reduced from £60 to £39.95. £160, Aran cardigans are reduced from £60 to £39.95. Floral prints and checks are half price. There are also reductions on childrenswear at some

Starts 27 Dec nationwide. Menswear, womenswear, and interiors all discounted by up to 50 per cent.

Starts 27 Dec for 3 weeks, at Nougat at Fenwick, Brent Cross Shopping Centre, London NW4, House of Fraser, Gateshead, and Binns of Middlesbrough. Soft angora sweaters, shantung silk shirts and suits will be among the sale items to be reduced by 50 per cent (0171-208 4300).

Runs from today until the end of January, at 292 Regent Street, nationwide. Discounts of up to 50 per cent; bargains include tan suede safari jackets, down from £109.99 to £69.99 and a red crêpe trousersuit. down from £44.99 to £24.99.

Red or Dead Starts 27 Dec at all London stores. Reductions of 40 per cent on most stock: suede high boots reduced from £125 to £75; pinafore frocks, down from £79 to £45.

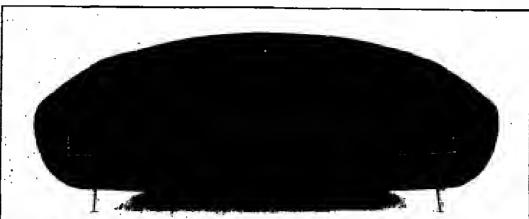
The Scotch House Starts 27 Dec for 2-3 weeks, at 2 Brompton Road, London SW1 and stores across London. Discounts of 30-40 per cent, Ladies' cashmere round-necked cardigans, down from £195 to £139 (0171-581 2151 for mail order and inquiries). Shinn Cashmere

Starts 28 Dec and continues for 3 weeks, at Shirin Cashmere, 11 Beauchamp Place, London SW3. Save 30-50 per cent on pure cashmere jumpers, polonecks, tunics, trousers. sbort skirts and coats in gold, birch, blue ink, dragon red, dark green and

Runs 27 Dec-25 Jan at Picadilly, London, Extra 10 per cent off on 27 Dec. 9am-10am, all day 29 Dec and 1 Jan (offer excludes concessions). Reductions of up to 50 per cent on YSL, Laroche, Costelloe, MaxMara, Fink, Geiger, Simpson, Excellent sale bargams are full-length conts, reduced from £429 to £299, tweed and plain wool jackets, reduced from £259 to £179, wool trousers and skirts reduced from £110 to £75; Merino knitwear, originally priced at £95, is now £65. The best menswear reductions are on cashmere coats. reduced from £699 to £499, Daks Blazers, down from £195 to £155. Daks sports jackets, from £199 to £99 and Daks two-piece suits, from £299

The Suit Company Starts 17 Nov at branches nationwide. Pierre Cardin silk ties, £19.95; trousers and shirts, £29.95. Swaine Adeney Brigg and Herbert

Rnns 8 Jan until 1 Feb at Runs 2 Jan-31 Jan, at 10 Old Bond Knightsbridge, London SW1. Street, London W1. The best of Britain's biggest sale will be opened



The Orwell Sofa, designed by Matthew Hitton, available at SCP, Curtain Road, London EC2. SCP has ounts of up to 50 per cent on floor samples, up to 15 per cent on items ordered during the sale





Tefal 'Anniversary' five-piece non-stick cookware set in green, normal price £100, available at the House of Fraser sale for £50.



Office court shoe, in black and two-tone as shown and in beige, original price £49.99, sale price £38

under one roof. Swaine Adency

will be discounts of 50 per cent on

Starts 2 Jan, at 5 St Christopher's

to a mere £60, and the long print

(0171-408 1174).

homes departments.

Fortnum & Mason

Runs from 27 Dec for 3 weeks, nt 63

New Bond Street, London W1, and at

stores in Brent Cross, at Ricemans of

Canterbury, Fenwick of Newcastle,

Tunbridge Wells, Windsor, York and

Leicester. Some lines will be

discounted by up to 30 per cent

including designer wear, such as Nicole Farhi and Mani.

Starts 28 Dec, at 181 Picadilly,

women's, men's and children's

Reductions of up to 50 per cent on

clothing. Women's fashion includes

designer collections such as Jean

Muir, Jasper Conran, MaxMara,

Mani, and YSL. Among the bargains

in menswear are suits reduced from

wool overcoats, reduced from £495 to

£495 to £295, Loro Piana doe-skin

London W1 (0171-734 8040).

Vicky Martin

British fashion and hats all together by Goldie Hawn and many departments will be offering halffashion will be reduced by 20 to 30 price stock. There will be saleper cent (0171-409 7277) and there preview days from 1 to 4 Jan allowing customers to order before the crowds selected Herbert Johnson ladies bats descend. Harrods account-holders will get an extra 10 per cent discount on the first Saturday of the sale.

Among the bargains will be cutlery Place, London W1 and at stores in and silverware reduced by up to 40 Leeds and Manchester. Bargains such per cent, towels and bathroom items by up to 50 per cent, and excellent as the Kate catsuit, down from £120 counts on household appliances kaftan, which was £110, down to £66. such as the Admiral 22SL American-

style fridge/freezer, down from £1,899 Other stock will have similar to £1,299 and the Sony CCD TRV70 Hi8 camcorder, down from £1,400 to **DEPARTMENT STORES** £999. The best of tadies fashion is **British Home Stores** reduced by up to 75 per cent and . Starts 26 Dec in Scotland and menswear by up to 50 per cent. Harvey Nichols England and 27 Dec in Wales. Starts 27 Dec at Knightsbridge, London SW1 and in Leeds, Discounts Starts 27 Dec in the UK and 26 Dec in Scotland (0171-408 4444). Great of up to 50 per cent will be found bargains to be found throughout the

throughout the store with an extra 10 store with up to 50 per cent off per ceot reduction for all accountselected Nuage rainwear and selected bolding customers for the first four premium-range J Taylor clothing, days of the sale. The beight of handbags and hats. Men will find designer style in womenswear savings of £10 on all Levi jeans and 50 per cent reductions on IQ casual tops "You have to treat it like and shirts. There are similar a military operation" reductions in the childrenswear and

> Lucinda Chambers, fashion stylist, Vogue The best piece of advice I could give anyone shopping in the sales would be to avoid getting something purely because it's cheap. People can make some horrible mistakes buying things

which they consider to be e

real bargain. On the other hand it is also a mistake to buy things because you think they are going to be useful. I often find that the clothes I have bought for that reason only turn out to be very boring and I don't wear them. I find that the more seemingly frivolous outilits I have bought

are the things I wear to death. I think you have to treat saleshopping rather like a military operation. You have to have an idea of what you want, go to where you are most likely to : > find it, get it and get out.



Harvey Nichols: Calvin Klein jersey dress reduced from £940 to £470



suit, down from £279 to £249; black and white gingham check button-down cotton shirt, down from £39.95 to £29.95; red horizontal stripe silk tie, down from £35 to £29.95, all at selected branches of Austin Reed

includes Dolce & Gabbana, Calvin Klein and Givenchy. Men will also have the opportunity to snap up labels like selected CK Jeans, Versus by Gianni Versace and Giorgio Armani Le Collezioni at half the usual price. For interiors Ralph Lauren Home items will be among the bargains. John Lewis Partnership

Clearance sales run in all John Lewis department stores from 28 or 31 Dec until 11 Jan. Reductions cover all household goods, from bath linen such as Jonelle cotton bath towels in more than 20 colours for as little as £8.75, to china, such as Deoby, Wedgwood and Spode which are reduced by up to 20 per cent. Other bargains include handbags. performery, jewellery and men's Christian Dior shirts for the special purchase price of £19.50. Liberty

Starts 27 Dec at Regent Street, Londoo Wt. Generous discounts are available on designer womenswear collections such as Gucci. Gaultier: Issey Miyake, Nicole Farhi, Ally Capellino, with many Vivienne Westwood lines reduced to half the normal price. Kenzo and Armani ties and Polo Ralph Lauren casuals are among the best of the bargains on offer in menswear. Armani, Pellini and Angie Gooderham jewellery will all be at half price and there will be excellent reductions on handbags and leathers. Homewares and interiors discounts will include half-price towels as well as linens, lighting, ebina and glass.

Starts 27 Dec and runs for about one month, at Oxford Street, London W1. Womenswear reductions of between 30 to 50 per cent include Calvin Klein, Future Ozbek, Workers for Freedom, Jasper Conran, Gaultier and selected lines of Polo Rainh Lauren. Equally exclusive lines in menswear such as some Paul Smith, Calvin Klein and selected YSL are reduced by up to 30 per cent. Household items sueb as china and crystal will be reduced by up to 40 per cent, linens and bathroom items by up to 50 per cent, there will be up to 50 per cent reductions on silverware and excellent discounts on a range of floor coverings, Oriental

carpets, books, and up to 50 per ceot discounts on childrenswear.

SHOES: Church's

Starts 16 Dec, at 201 Regent Street, London W1 and branches across London. World-renowned quality altleather shoes. Discounts include the Dorchester shoe, down from £195 lu £120, the Litz, down from £185 to £95 and the ladies quilted loafer in sunflower yellow, down from £110 to

Dr Martins Runs Jan 13 until the end of Feb. at 1-4 King Street, London WC2 (0171-

497 1460) Jones Box Starts 27 Dec at branches across London. Ladies classic loafers are reduced from £75 to £55, the zip-up boot with beel from £100 to £50. men's classic lace-up shoes from £95

to £40. All discounts are on the current stock Starts 15 Dec. at 260 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-499 ti305) and 476 Oxford Street, London W1 (0171-629 9609), 17 Dec for all other stores. with 25 to 30 per cent off men and

women's shoes. Starts 4 Jan at all branches across London (0181-838 4447). Reductions of up to 60 per cent on selected ranges of women's and men's footwear including styles by Karl Largerfeld, Charles Jourdan. Sweeneys, Timberland, Caterpillar, Nike, Adıdas, Fila and Vans.

Pied à Terre Starts 27 Dec at 31 Old Bond Street, London W1 and all branches in London, Manchester, Glasgow. Brighton, Brent Cross and Lakeside Shopping Centre (0171-499 9204). Discounts of up to 75 per cent on selected shoes, clothing and hags.

Starts 15 Dec in London and 9 Dec nationwide. The sale on accessories and children's shoes will start on 12 Dec (0171-631 0224). Discounts will be up to 50 per cent although most reductions will be around 33 per cent. Bargains include suede loafers, down from £29.99 to £20, elegant beaded satin high-heel court shoe in grey or burgundy, reduced from £39.99 to £29, meo's slip-on loafer with leather sole, down from £49.99 to £40 and ankle boots with buckle down from £39.99 to £30.

HOMES & INTERIORS

Grove, London W2 with up to 50 per cent off many items. Many of the innovative furniture designs of Paul Newman will be reduced by up to 25 per cent including the stylish Ali table with polished aluminium legs and a birch-veneered top and his unusual Wave Cabinets. Aero also has a wide range of contemporary lighting and kitchen goods.

The Conran Shop Starts 4 Jan, at 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-589 7401) with 30 per cent discounts on upholstery and discontinued lines

The Charleston Shop and Gallery Runs 4.5 Jan, at Charleston, near Firle, Lewes, East Sussex (01323 811626). Discounts from 25 to 50 per cent on ceramics and textiles, 10 per cent on books; some Quentin Bell ceramics seconds will also be

**CP Hart** Starts 18 Jan and continues for 2 weeks at Newnham Terrace. Henciles There will be a third off bathroom products and accessories. One

Road, London SEI (0171-902 1000). excellent bargain is the cast-iron rolltop hath, reduced from £450 to £295. Runs 27 Dec until 19 Jan, at 196 Tottenham Court Road, London Wt

(0171-636 166b) and stores in London

and Guilford. Discounts include 20 per cent off normal-stock dining tables, chairs, occasional tables and upholstery, 30 per coot off selected cookware, canteens of cutlery and clear-glass vases, 50 per cent off discounted linens and all basket ware at the Tottenham Court Road store. Good reductions on metal beds and discounted children's furniture ranges Connections and Carnival. The star bargains of the sale include Caprice metal beds, reduced from £720 to £575, Bergere chairs, frame-only, down from £810 to £595, and Bergere two-seater chairs, frame-only, down from £1,090 to £750. House of Fraser Home Wares Starts 27 Dec at Dickins & Jones, at 224-244 Regents Street, London W1 (0171-734 7070) and branches across England and 26 Dec in Scotland at all branches. Bargain beds such as the Slumberland copper-seal four-drawer divan set, reduced from £799 to £499; excellent discounts on electricals include the Toshiba 2855DB 28in

colour television, down from £649.99 to £469.99; kitchen wares such as Tefal wok and fondue set, down from £99.99 to £49.99; and furniture such as the Y550 dining table, reduced from £1,480 to £1,180 and large sofas. down from £1,090 to £990. Starts Dec 26 at 2 Drury Way, North

Circular Road, London NW10 (0181-208 5600) and at branches in Croydon, Birmingham, Gateshead, Leeds and Warrington. Jerry's Home Stores Starts 10 Jan, at 163-167 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171 -5810 909) and at stores in Hampstead,

Knightsbridge (within Harvey Nichols, 0171-2456 251) and Kingston (0181-5495 393). Maples

Starts 26 Dec at stores nationwide. Excellent furniture pargains include the Maples two-seat sufa, reduced from £1,390 to £949 and the Lennox table and four chairs, down from £2,995 to £499.

STAR BARGAINS Mulberry Hall

Starts 2 Jan at Stonegate Hall, York 101904 62(636) There is also a mailorder sale (1)(4)H 62(1736) which starts on the 6 Jao. Buy all your elegant kitchen wares at great-value prices. Bargains include the Spode Consul Cohalt pattern 24-piece dinner service, reduced from £740 to £492 and a Baccarat Moulin Rouge ice bucket, down from £1,400 to £935. Nice Irma's

Starts 3 Jan and continues for 4-6 weeks, at 4t Goodge Street, London WT (0171-580 6921) with discounts of Iff per coot on all stock.

Runs 27 Dec notil 19 Jan in all 15 stores around the country. Reductions will range between 20 and 50 per cent; among the most outstanding are the large Fasance hand decorated tile-top table. reduced from £425 to £325 and the Shaker dining chairs in green, reduced from £75 to £50. Best of all, however, are the warm-toned 'Steamed' Beech extending square dining tables with four rush-seated chairs, £395, plus an extra set of chairs for £125.

Royal Worcester Spode Runs 27 Dec unid 25 Jan, at 126 Regent Street, London W1. Royal Worcester and Spode will be reduced by 20 per cent but there will also be some extraordinary crockery bargains

> "Don't pass over the basement bargains"

Sarah Bryant, buyer for finens# and home furnishings, Liberty and home furnishings, Liberty and fashion and I always at the classics and basics + 1 by not be get pulled by that bright orange.

mistake.

I think you have to be a carry shopper to set the best out of the sales. It's best to plan by going to the shops the sale and deciding before the sale and deciding. what you want. To avoid setting over-tired it is good to know or. a cale where your call bottom still and revive your spirits before resuming shopping.

Although the gradies brints about her burding there is a brint as a because the pre-timent that may be pass over those real times to pass over those real times that they have been wheeled out from two sees.

been wheeled out from two seas 

such as a dinner service for eight reduced from £1,000 to £100.

Runs 4 Jan until 1 Feb, at 135-139 Curtain Road, London EC2. Discounts on design-led contemporary furniture, lighting and accessories. Floor samples will be reduced by up to 50 per cent and there will be a 15 per cent discount on all items ordered during the sale.

MISCELLANFOUS

Starts 27 Dec and continues until the end of January, at Faverdale. Darlington, Co Durham (0800 591523). Generous discounts on exdisplay conservatories and summerhouses. The Back Store

Rons 2 Jan until 31 Jan, at 330 King Street, Londoo Wo. Some of the shop's best items will be on sale at 50 per cent below the normal price. Huge savings can be made on the best ergonomic office furniture available. CCA Galleries

Starts 28 Dec, at 8 Dover Street, London WI (0171-499 6701). Reductions of up to 50 per cent on selected prints. A Donald Hamilton-Fraser framed silk-screen print is reduced from £335 to £225.

Runs 2-12 Jan, at 106 Draycott Avenue, London SW1 (0171-584 9449). Save 30-70 per cent on designer frames such as Alam Mikli, Matsuda, Yohji Yamamoto, Jean Paul Gaultier, Thierry Mugler and Starts 27 Dec for 4-6 weeks at 11 St

Christopher's Place, London W1. Reductions of 30-50 per cent. The sale will launch with a Bag and Belt party, where sample and end-of-line bags and belts will be available for £35 and £10 respectively. Touchstone Home Video Runs 30 Dec until 31 Jan at all stockists of Hollywood Pictures Home Video and Touchstone Home Video. See in the new year with Hollywood's best movies at great prices. There are 13 box-office-hit videos available such as Sinns and Quiz Show for only

Tridias Starts 28 Dec, at 124 Walcot Street, Batb (01225 314730) and in all branches and 2 Jan by mail order. Celebrating its thirtieth birthday, the children's toy retailer is offering a fantastic collection of imaginative items at brilliant discounts.

# Only Currys bring you all this

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### \* THE INDEPENDENT

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## MOMENTS THAT MADE THE YEAR

newspaper editor, said one great journalist, is a man who separates the wheat from the chaff - and prints the chaff. I hope that in this respect at least, The Independent has been thoroughly badly edited throughout 1996. But if the chaff content is ever too high, then I have no excuse; we have had great stories to report and great writers to report them. Our stroppy platoon of columnists have delighted and infuriated you in equal measure, which seems about right. We have taken and used some all-time great photographs and introduced new artists, including the fine, sinewy drawing of Chris Priestley (see below). I have made many changes to the newspaper, and even on the law of averages, it is possible that some of them have been for the hetter.

But enough of the pottery. What about its contents, the story of 1996? What stands out from the year, and what lessons might we draw?

Politics itself has been dominated by Europe, and by the political decay of the Major administration. Instant historical analysis can be hi-lariously wrong; we should leave it a few decades to judge the effect of Britain's anti-Continental drift. But it looks as if in 1996 our political class concluded that European union, on the federal model championed by France

and Germany, was not for them.
That is a sweeping judgement. But the anti-Brussels fever has spread beyond the Conservative Party and infects much more than the single-currency question. Try to imagine a Tony Blair-led government confronting the hard choices
- swapping sterling for the euro, or acquiescing in more majority voting. Even if the Conservatives are in political shreds at the time, he will note the raucous and sentimental patriotism of the press and the self-righteous xenophobia affame on the right of politics; and he will back off. The Tory anti-federalists may well lose their party the election; but I suspect they have already prevented Britain becoming a full participant in the kind of complete union planned for decades in Paris, Bonn and Brussels.

Withdrawal, which only a couple of years ago was a taboo topic, is now openly discussed by Conservative rightwingers and by the hectoring classes who have signed up for Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, or the UK Inde-peodence Party. "Reoegotiate" is the code word for an entirely new relationship with the EU. Unless the unioo radically changes from within, that seems likely to mean leaving it: even John Major has flirted, however ambiguously, with the idea of a breakdown in British-EU relations. We may come to that, though the decay of the Major administration has probably exaggerated the strength of the "antis" - they are more divided and less numerous than their press support suggests.

The Independent was founded 10 years ago as a firmly pro-European paper. We have agonised and argued about all this; in many ways, we would love to have been the paper that championed the single currency in the teeth of the John Bull brigade. (John Bulls, it should be added, who live abroad and are against the EU in part hecause they fear that it might try to regulate properly their global businesses.)

But there are deep democrace problems about having a pan-European economic policy. Like: what happens if a democratically elected national government wants to go a different way, and Private lives, public debate: The growing moral maze

is ordered not to? Like: how would people react m recessions when informed that the austerity policy which cost them a job or a pay cut, came not from elected governments but from a bank? Until there are answers here, we finally decided that monetary union could do more to wreck the union than to build it. This puts us in a minority of a minority, we are part of the pro-European minority in the media, and a minority anti-EMU voice in that. Too bad: the great lack in British and Continental politics has been a strongly pro-European voice which is insistent about democracy, asks for clarity and believes in the rights of

regions and small nations as well as hig ones. In a small way. The Independent has tried to address this by arguing for a European confederacy, a less amhitious but more tightly drawn, constitution-based political body, overseeing a Europe united by free trade and liberal, democratie values,

rather than vague aspirations and directives. That kind of union is not an impossible dream. The turmoil produced by the march to monetary union, in Britain and elsewhere, may produce a modified and gentler union. If it doesn't, it will surely spawn another generation of aggressively nationalist politics, here and on the Continent. That is unequivocally the last thing Europe needs. The slow falling-apart of British Conservative gov-ernment under the pressures of the EU programme has not been an enjoyable or edifying spectacle. Granted, it has been more amusing than watching paint dry, or planks warp. But only just. The depression has not been lightened by stories about sleaze, parliamentary arrogance and political incompetence. The non-headline story of Parliament during the year is, however, the new mood and rules governing MPs' behaviour. The Scott report was not properly responded to by the Government - people hung on who should

have gone – hnt that and the Nnlan Commission have changed the political weather. Only a few of the more arrogant and out-of-touch MPs still think they don't have a trust problem with volumes. The new rules and the stampers with which ers. The new rules and the sternness with which David Willetts was treated by niher MPs are perhaps a sign of the Hinuse slowly coming to order.

Such guarded optimism can't be applied to the BSE affair. As a study in the conduct of public

policy, it will go down in history alongside the poll tax, and is about as cheering. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was acting both as a political lobby group for the beef industry and as its health watchdog; these proved incompatible. Maff doesn't deserve to survive what followed. The ministerial response was slow, evasive and at times chaotic. Departments wrangled in public. Newspapers led a public panie; there was too little rensoned and detailed argument. Everyone appealed to "science" and discovered that science was human, and had opinions too. Britain was quickly isolated in the EU and a mixture of pride and timidity meant that the fast, drastic decisions which might have limited the damage were fudged. And the national apportunity in look afresh at intensive farming and ask whether there isn't anoth-

er, better way to produce safe food seems to have been missed.

nother thing that struck me foreithy is how closely connected our private lives and public dehates are becoming. Increasingly, in The Independent, as elsewhere, "news" isn't only a crashing plane or a politician's views; it is also about lifestyle, behaviour and individual choices. In the office, our liveliest arguments tend not be left versus right, but between social conservatives and libertarians, on issues such as censorship, morality, privacy, drugs and the new bio-technologies. Here, as with the more conventional issues, we have analysed and argued and I'm not ashamed of the results,

For, throughout the year past and, no doubt, through the year ahead, we have been struggling in the most savagely competitive newspaper market - the toughest in the world. We have faced Rupert Murdoch's price-cutting - an attempt to close us down, whatever his minions say - giveaway offers and awesome advertising campaigns. Privately, senior Tory and Labour politicians agree that Murdoch is using business tactics that wouldn't be allowed in other countries. But they are too frightened of his power to intervene. We will manage without them, Our core readership has stuck with us, forgiven me the mistakes of a novice editor and kept up a lively correspondence with our writers. The year ahead will bring the most important election Britain has faced for very many years. And that means that it will also bring ranting and obfuscation, xenophohia and propaganda, hullying and a certain amount of hysteria. We are a young newspaper. But the coming year, like the past decade, will be a time when Britain needs a decent, liberal, pro-European and above all independent newspaper, one with an open mind and no political haggage. I may be a little hiased but it seems to be that this would be a less interesting and less informed country without The Independent, I hope that, as you sip your Boxing Day soda water, you think so too.

**Andrew Marr** 



## Sin, myth and the crusaders

In the aftermath of Dunblane and the killing of Philip Lawrence, moral troopers shook

he scene in the Dunblane gym cast its long dark shadow all down this year. We may nev-er have seen those children scattered in heaps like bloodsoaked dolls, but the image was hurned into our consciousness in Technicolor. Moral tremors shook the nacon and that fear entered into all discourse and poliocs. Echoes of Dunhlane haunted other crimes: the kicking to death of a Corby girl by two 13-year-olds, the rural slaugh-ter of Josie Russell's mother and sister. child abuse uncovered on a huge scale (much of it exposed by this newspaper), the machete attack on a nursery school teddy bears' picnie and the murder of the headmaster Philip Lawrence. It all looked like a world gone madly awry and it drove us half mad this year.

And yet Dunblane was an event without meaning or significance. It told us nothing about society, ourselves or our morals. A staring-eyed paedophile mis-fit with a hideous guo, Thomas Hamilton was useless even as a symbol of latter-day moral decadence. The human gene pool always has and always will throw up such madmen, so his pathetic life and death signified nothing new.

Looking for meaning, some woodered if his very insignificance in an uncaring alienated urban society made him do it. But even that thought led nowhere. Dunhlane turned out to be a remarkably good society, elose-knit, a genuine community that did what close-knit communities do with dangerous looking weirdos - marked him out and shunned him. That is part of what identifies them as good communities in the first place. That left nothing to blame but the inanimate gun and the knife. All in all. the aftermath of Dunhlane has been devoid of lessons.

the nation. But empty moralising is no substitute for real politics, writes Polly Toynbee

fashioned good against modern evil? Or was it the respectable world attacked by the savage growing underclass? A brave and good headmaster running to protect a weak pupil is stabbed through the heart by a young thug who bears not just the mark of Cain, but of every single attribute of modern social decay. Learco Chindamo had it all: illegitimate son of a convicted Italian mafia man and a hopeless Filipina, living with his mother and her dead-beat unemployed lover lost in an alcoholie daze. Learco's only amhition was to make his mark on the mean streets: he has Never Should Have Beeo Born, What's He Doing in Our Country? and Modern Youth From Hell written all over him in hanner

n the other corner stand the Lawrences, the ideal traditional family - dignified and good. Frances Lawrence's moving manifesto touched every chord, with words of both moral and social admonition. She saw Chindamo as a true son of modern Britain but that also meant a son of the deprived underclass that grew and multiplied in the Tory years.

All this sent the politicians off into a moral spin. Tony Blair wore his Christianity like a fluorescent Jesus Army band on his sleeve. Not to be outdone, John Major, until now admirably terse on the question of his own religion, suddenly found the kernel of his wizened Christian soul too. None

have the makings of a parable. But of it was a shamelessly self-serving encourwhat kind? Was it a story of old-agement of the mood of panic. The family-values tumbrel rolled on. The frustration for the moralists is that there is so little practical policy to ap-ply family values to. There is agitated talk

of tinkering with the tax and benefits system to favour marriage, but few really think that will roll back the sexual revolution. That leaves curiously marginal oddities such as the films Crash and Lolito bear the full weight of political and



evoted of lessons.

In Philip Lawrence's murder, we did of this was an edifying spectacle. Rather,

The image of Dunblane is burned into our minds Photograph: Brian Harris Government and, alas, the Lahour Parship we get from the new government.

tabloid wrath. Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage. saw her chance to join in when she summoned programme controllers to listen

to her sermon nn violence in television. But by and large, the deafening decibels of newspaper moralising are all mouth and mercifully little trousers - so far. The discerning Independent reader may have missed the relentless moral essays in the right-wing press but all year right-wing commentators have worked themselves into a frenzy. In a great turbulent stew, they brew together crime. violence, divorce, single motherhood, idleness on the dole, social security fraud, failing schools and wild children. Society seen through their glass darkly lurches on the edge of the abyss.

wo royal divorces and a new no-fault divorce law only seemed to confirm the Jeremiahs' worst forebodings. Marriage, they wailed, is the primal building block of society and now it is tumbling down around us like the walls of the temple.

Does all this matter? Yes, it does, For we live as much in our heads on myth and imagination as we live in the real world. If through mendacious reporting we create the illusion that we actually live in a worse world than we really do, then we subject ourselves to needless unhappiness and anxiety. Worse still, if we make the wrong diagnosis, we will take the wrong medicine and make problems worse, not better. So the moralists, the

of near-terminal sin. The prescription? A huge prison-building programme at colossal cost and a soaring prison population. It doesn't work? Then double the dose and treble it until it does.

For the true causes of crime lie deep in the underclass. It is an age-old habit of those in the pulpit to dredge down there in the gutter for stories of terrible sin with which to give moral frights to the faithful in the pews. They like to pretend the exceptional problems of the poor are a sign of sin running all through society. But the correlation between the growing relative deprivation at the bottom and the soaring crime rate of recent years is blindingly obvious. Right across Europe the crime rate mirrors the boom-aod-bust patterns of each economy - crime goes up in had times and dips in good times. The Jeremiahs, however, prefer to tell us that the gap between rich and poor has noth-ing to do with it - liberal values are to blame and we are reaping the whirlwind of the pernicious Sixties.

This year that age-old moral debate nn the eauses of crime reached a crescendo. No doubt it will reverberate wearily through the 1997 election. Emp-ty moralising has become a substitute for real politics because morals are cheap while proper policies cost money. The question is whether after the election all this will be put behind us, or will the moral mood rumble on and demand real and punishing action, however useless and irrelevant? The opinion poll evidence is that the great hulk of the population remains, and indeed becomes ever more liberal in its sexual attitudes - on divorce, cohahitation, abortion and homosexuality. On crime it will depend on the quality of leader-

## Science gives birth to a multiple dilemma



A woman conceives octuplets after fertility treatment; another seeks to conceive using her dead husband's sperm. The ethics are muddled, writes Paul Vallely

The word they have coined is viruses to cross from pigs to xenotransplantation, from the people. These viruses cause Greek xenos meaning strange, different or foreign.

Next month a report from a committee chaired by lan species to another. HIV, the Kennedy, professor of medical law and ethics at King's College, London, will recommend that xenotransplants should be permitted; that pigs' organs - the animals' hearts and kidneys can be surgically placed inside

human beings.
The Nuffield Council on Bioethics made the same recommendation earlier this year. The Government, however, has chosen to leak the Kennedy report to indicate that ministers

few problems to their natural hosts, hut can cause havoc when they cross from ooe retrovirus which can lead to Aids, is often assumed to have crossed to humans from a species of monkey.

The ideal animal to supply organs to humans would be the chimpanzee, whose DNA differs from ours by less than 2 per cent. But the Nuffield committee suggested that, on ethical grounds, we could not use apes and monkeys for transplant, because primates are too close to humankind. Yet such moral scruples, they concluded, need not apply to pigs.

over genetically engineered maize and soya. Perfectly safe, say the scientists employed by the American firms which make them. And many of those without vested interests agree: John Habgood, the scientist, theologian and former Archhishop of York, once told me that he would happily eat a chop from a lamb which had been engineered to include a human gene - for what difference could one gene make among so many millions of lamb genes?

Yet many of us remain uneasy. We may become more so as our pluralistic society makes it even more difficult to make judgements about about what is, in fact, natural. And how can we reach a consensus when our society has oo common moral language? An increasing number of cases over the past 12 months have thrown this dilemma into relief. . At the start of the year, the

parents of a hrain-damaged child applied to the High Court for permission to with-draw his food, and so allow him to die. At the end of the year we have concerns over animal organ transplants. In between, some 3,000 frozen embryos were destroyed; a woman had one of her two twins aborted; and another refused the selective abortion which doctors recommended when she conceived octuplets while on fertility treatment. A ed the right to have a posthumous baby using the sperm of her dead husband. And then a 51-year-old grandmother daughter's baby.

The questions which such cases aroused generated more heat than light. And yet they ought to have been simple enough to formulate. Is it safe? Is it natural? Is it legal? Is it kind? Is it right? And do we have to answer "Yes" to all of those questions before we proceed in such cases?

Some of the cases did not present new issues so much as dramatise old ooes in a oew way. The case of the woman who wanted rid of one of her twins was significant because it made many of those who back the "pro-choice" position feel uneasy. It confronted them with the essential arbitrariness of abortion, particularly so when it was disclosed that the woman concerned was a middle-class, high-income wife. What had been presented as a poverty issue was exposed as a convenience one.

Other cases presented new

The expiry of the deadline for the storage of Britain's first frozen embryos faced us with the consequences of a decision made five years ago. There were echoes of the abortion debate in all this: this was hu-man life, but were they human

The new underlying ethical issue of ownership was largely neglected. And without such a discussion we may yet face rows over the ownership of senetic material, for senetly genetic material – for example, in the case of the woman in the US who recently cooceived and theo aborted in order to produce foetal material for use m the treatment of her father's Aizheimer's disease.

We are increasingly looking to science as a device to delay the need to face up to the metaphysical issues at the heart of mortality and infertility alike.

And all this is set in the cootext of National Health Service dicate that the benefits greatreforms where the internal market has strengthened in the public mind the link between medicine and money, at the expense of a link with morals. Combine that with the growth of our "rights" culture - in which all unfulfilled desires seem to be seen as an abuse of

trying to have the law changed to allow Diane Blood to be impregnated with sperm taken from her dying husband.

Traditional British preju dices cloud the issue here. The sympathy quotient for Mrs Blood was boosted by the "one-of-us" factor. She was an articulate middle-class advertising executive. Contrast that with the case of Mandy Allwood who conceived octuplets while on fertility treatment. The controversy surrounding her refusal to undergo the selective abortions her doctors recommended, all the foctuses, was reinforced by her deal with the publicist Max Clifford and the News of the World.

Ms Allwood was widely deemed an unsuitable candidate for fertility treatment in the first place - she had had a child already, and an abortion, was not in a stable relationship, did not tell her partner she was having the treatment, and had sex when doctors told her oot to. Such how society should decide who should get fertility treatment.

Unstated assumptions and inconsistencies bedevil the entire bioethics debate. One of the most alarming examples lies in the developments on euthanasia this year.

Thomas Creedon edged into new territory wheo they decided to go to the High Court to ask for permission to stop feeding their brain-damaged soo. Another, anonymous, couple went further, beginning proceedings to be allowed to administer a lethal injection to their brain-damaged haby whom doctors predicted would die in infancy.

Thomas Creedon died be-

fore his case came to court; the other case has yet to be heard. But what the slippage reveals are some unchallenged assumptions about what constitutes a "worthwhile" life.

#### 6 Inconsistencies have bedevilled the bioethics debate?

In Britain there are hospitals where - although officials will not publicly acknowledge this - it is impossible for those aged over 70 to get treatment. Perhaps society might be happy to endorse such assumptions. But it is dangerous when they go unarticulated and are therefore never sub-

jected to public challeoge. But choice cannot be all. We have some important moral intuitions about not killing people, about the sacredness of life, about not messing with nature, about our interrelatedness, and our responsibility for one another. If these intuitions were oot inherent in our make up, then what is possible and permissible could slide into what is expected or even inevitable.

The danger is that in leaving such decisions to the individual some important human values may be undermined.

In the case of the surrogate grandmother, we may ask what harm can it do when all are happy? But there are other questions. How would the daughter have felt if her 51-year-old mother had died during the pregnancy? How would they cope if the child were handicapped? Or later abused? What would have happened if a pre-natal scan showed ahnormality and the mother wanted to abort but the grandmother disagreed?

Just because nothing went wrong this time is no answer. Moral responsibility requires us to think beyond the immediate. The argument against sur-

rogacy is that it makes women vulnerable - poor women to economic exploitation and grandmothers, oow, to emotional manipulation. To warn thus is not to adopt a Luddite position. The risk analysis which the scientists have done on xenotransplantation may inly outweigh the possible harm. Most of us would be content to take expert advice on such matters. But it has to be advice; we have to be given the choice on whether we want to eat ge-netically altered maize. Most importantly that choice has to be an informed one. If it is not human rights - and you get the test-tube pioneer Lord Winston choice to a higher authority. we may have to pass that



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Infect ad co

## Infected by mad cows and Europhobes

Blair has been canny, but the Tories dug themselves ever deeper into the mire, says Donald Macintyre

tious. You are spending Christ-mas at home thinking in deepest privacy of what 1997

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You look at the opining polls. What does the phrase "election campaign" make you think about first? Is it (a) the gruelling prospect of three weeks stomping up and down Britain straining every fibre of your body to help secure your party a record fifth term in of-fice against all the odds? Is it (b), a good job at Lazards or (e), something you would pre-fer not to think about at all? Or is it (d), another election altogether: the battle for the votes of the Tory party to succeed John Major and become its eighth leader since 1945?

If it's (b) or (e), you've prob-ably got one of those marginal seats which look doomed. If it's (d), you're one of at least half a dozen senior members of the Cabiner, who thinks that he or sbe can be leading the party by the end of the year. If it's (a) you're probably John Major. That, in sum, is how bad 1996 was for the party which has governed Britain since 1979. It wasn't the crises themselves, though goodness knows there were enough of those. It was more that this was the year that the economic recovery was finally supposed to translate into votes and didn't.

It's why Tory MPs would discuss the prospect of electoral defeat with an openness, some-times even with a relish, that has been unknown in any party since Labour was in its darkest days in the early 1980s. It is why some of the brightest stars on what was once thought to have been the left of the partv. such as Stephen Dorrell and court the neo-Thatcherite right wing which they believe will dominate the party after polling day. Perhaps the speech Mr Dorrell made back in May - not long after the Tories lost an awe-inspiring 567 seats in the local elections - will prove, in its own way, a turning point. In it, the Secretary of State for Committee set about trying to interview in the New Statesman.

state-shrinker and Eurosceptie in the same speech, bewilderingly proclaiming that
Margaret Thateher had really
been a "one nation" Conservative. By that time of course,

at the gun lobby needed appeasing more than the
town's stricken parents.

This was defiance of electoral
gravity on a heroic scale.

But above all, of course, it
was Europe that made the most people had already forgotten that in January she her-

self had witheringly dismissed the term in a speech of her own which derided the recent defection of Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats, but which also managed to be no-tably unhelpful to Mr Major. Only Ken Clarke, and though he was less public about it, Michael Heseltine, stubbornly refused to trim like this. More of that in a moment.

Consider first the level of Tory indiscipline given that this was the last full year before an election. It was that on issues as disparate as divorce and the sale of MoD homes, large groups of rebellious hackhenehers were prepared to flout the iron law that voters distrust divided parties. Against this background perhaps one Tory rebel qualifies as backbencher of the year for being - literal-

6 Mr Blair had at times little to do than watch the disintegration 🤊

ly - on the side of virtue; it was Quentin Davies, who voted against the Government over the Scott arms-to-Iraq report.
And it was Mr Davies who helped Parliament to start cleaning up its act with a relentless cross-examination which exposed the untruth at the heart of the testimony by the minister David Willetts been tampering with a quasijudicial inquiry into sleaze.

Health defily became at once prove that the gun lobby need-

was Europe that made the disintegration look terminal, that became for so many an issue bigger than party. The coalition of phobes, sceptics and those bullied by both, refused to give up, as Mr Clarke had predicted they would when he agreed in April - despite having seriously contemplated resignation - that any future decision to join EMU would be put to a referendum. In return he secured a deal written in blood that Major would not rule out joining EMU - a deal that the sceptics then set about trying to unravel in a campaign which still isn't over. What's more, the boundaries of the argument changed. Gradually, it became possible to talk about withdrawal from the EU. For this, the catalyst - even more than the fear inspired by Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party - was probably the crisis over BSE.

The BSE débâcle became at once the most potent symbol of government incompetence and the crucible on which a muscular new anti-Europeanism was forged on the Tory right. The Government declared a war on Europe it couldn't win - with an Alice in Wonderland policy of non-cooperation which amounted

only to vetoing those propos-

als which it would have previ-

ously have approved because they did no damage to Britain. It is tempting simply to blame Mr Major for allowing all this to get out of control. But that fails to give enough cred-it to Tony Blair. True, Mr Blair had at times to do little more than watch the disintegration. ble free in 1996. There were even some symmetries: as thanks for it. But it was his colleagues who were doing the real damage: even as the country absorbed the shock of Dunhlane, a majoring of Ton 100.



John Major had his own worst week (the most recent of many) in December which hegan when a ham-fisted attempt to re-open the EMU issue infuriated his Chancellor and ended when the MP John Gorst threatened to desert in defence of his local hospital. Tony Blair had his worst week back in January when Harriet Harman created an earthquake by sending her son to a grammar school. There are still after-tremors and more may

follow in the election campaign. But that doesn't alter the fact that throughout this year much of the Tory party has behaved as if it didn't expect to win for the very reason that Mr Blair had made Labour look convincingly electable again.

Ignoring the siren voices urging him to take more electoral risks - on Europe, on tax, and on spending - he has painstakingreinforced the theme of the draft manifesto which he un-veiled in July: that Labour will not promise more than it can deliver. He underlaid it, what's more, with a subliminal message that he will deliver more than he achievement.

The polls may, if not lie, try absorbed the shock of Dun-lior - so Lord Callaghan in winning. But the Tories ended thane, a majority of Tory MPs December gently sniped at on the Home Affairs Select the Labour leader in a recent began it. And that, they never

## DEBENHAMS



### Tory antics that redefined the meaning of sleaze n the early, uncomplicated days of "back to beside" Despite Nolan and Scott, the scandals to committee chairmen about

basics", the word "sleaze" came to be associated with bonking. The rubric was roughly this: Tory politician bonks someone not his wife; is found out and exposed; wife stands by him; ridiculous or even apocryphal detail emerges (toes, telephone calls, Chelsea shirt, woman was 16-year-old researcher, woman was a constituent, woman was man); politician resigns; Prime Minister regrets the trivialisation of politics; archbishop regrets lack of

moral lead by politicians. This was sleaze that required no great effort of intellect or expenditure of time on the part of those who commented upon it (nor indeed, upon the part of those who parlicipated in it). It made good, simple news copy day after day. Alas, it was too good to last. 1996 furnished us with only one ministerial death through fornication, and the minister unsportingly resigned before we had time for the toes and the

archhishops. What we had instead was the 1,800 pages of the Scott report into the arms-for-Iraq affair. Published 39 months after the inquiry was set up, the report itself furnished lazy journalists with precious little headline material. This was because the Devil lay not in the accusations against individual ministers, but in the detailed picture of how policy is formed, altered, applied and communicated new names to all our lips. The in Britain.

What Scott attacked was the culture of secrecy and the Lan Greer. A man of great and lack of adequate constitutional restraints on the executive. Important stuff, but not sexy.

What was just as revealing as

Lan Oreer. A man of great and (according to some) inexplication and restraints on the executive. Some properties and the constitution and restraints on the executive. Some properties and the constitution and restraints on the executive. Some properties and the rough deckton have made three mistakes. The first was to be seduced by the assumption that there was no new administration—achieving any change.

continued, writes David Aaronovitch

Government chose to handle its publication. By giving the opposition three-and-a-half hours in a guarded basement of the Department of Trade to read the report before it was unveiled in the House, and by using that time themselves to produce a spin upon it (a spin later condemned by Scott) suggesting that they had been completely exonerated, the Government behaved arrogantly and shabbily.

It worked, too. In the debate 10 days after the publication and despite a spectacular speech by Labour's Rohin Cook, the Government lost the argument, but won the voie - with a majority of onc-And that was that.

With Scott out of the way, we all tonk a sleaze break until the party conferences. MPs used the time to defy their party leaders, public opinion and the fatuous rumblings of the moralistic press to vote themselves a substantial pay increase. No strings (such as a reduction in the number of they did) were attached. Then, as autumn fell, the

sudden abandonment by the Tory MP Neil Hamilton of his libel suit against the Guardian (arising out of the cash-forquestions affair) hrought two first was that of the grandad-dy of Westminster lohbyists. Scott) an intellectual sharing a lan Greer. A man of great and vessel with the rough deck-

the report itself was the way the and others - for no particularly

Embarrassed MPs of all political colours were suddenly discovered to be involuntary recipients of Mr Greer's unso-licited largesse. The Labour health spokesman Chris Smith, for instance, had had 200 notes delivered to his local party to assist in fighting a general elec-tion campaign. Why had this money been donated? No one

6 in the early days, the word was linked only with bonking 9

knew. What had Mr Greer (a lifelong Conservative) hoped to get for his outlay? Nothing at all: some gave to Oxfam, some gave to Chris Smith.

The second name was that of the cerebral MP for Havant, David Willetts, whose note -MPs, or evaluation of the work written when a junior whip suggesting that the Tory chair-man of the House of Commons privileges committee investi-gating Mr Hamilton "wanted advice", indicated government intervention in the workings of

an independent body. Mr Willetts, like William

the progress of such sensitive inquiries. This assumption is a very low-level and minor form of corruption, and one that typgood reason, he told the ifies a party that has been in power too long. power too long.
The second was to have

written it down. And the third was to have attempted to explain it away with a schoolboyish evasion that insulted the intelligence of at least one of the Tories on the committee. Quentin Davies, who had voted against the Government over Scott. Mr Willetts' famous phrase of self-exculpation, that "want" had meant "stood in need of" (as in the Austen phrase "must he in want of a wife") rather than "required", demunstrated a

rather desperate dishonesty. Meanwhile, the Government showed what it had learnt from the handling of the Scott report, by leaking both the contents of the Cullen report on the massacre at Dun-blane, and its proposed legislative response, while once mure denying the Opposition a chance to examine Cullen until the day of its publication.

And so we limp towards the general election. Aspects of Lord Nolan's 1995 report have been implemented (nulably the revised register of interests), but Parliament functions no better than it did, the executive is largely unscrutinised, and those who hold power are obstinately determined to hang on to it. From where I sit, day after day, it is hard to see anything other

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## The bombs that blew away peace in Ulster

Euphoria turned to dismay with the return of terrorist bombings, writes David McKittrick

t has truly been an an-nus horribilis for Northern Ireland, an awful. dispiriting year: 1996 opened with an IRA ceasefire and the possibility of real talks; it closes with the Government and the republicans at loggerheads, and more bombs feared at any moment. Half a year's worth of political talks, sans Sinn Fein,

have proved almost entirely unproductive, inducing even more cynicism in an already imistic populatioo. The joy of peace has been re-placed by the fear of more war. And yet it is still possible to

hear, in republican and other circles, people saying in their flat Belfast monotooe: "It's over." It is certainly a tense and dangerous time; there is, almost certainly, more death and destruction to come; yet overall the sense is still that the

6 There is a faint light at the end of the tunnel 🤊

troubles are moving towards

their end. It is impossible to disprove the opposite theory, which is that the troubles are endless and the future holds not only eternal deadlock but perpetual violence too. Yet eveo this terrible year had in it what can be seen as signs of hope for medium-term prospects.

They were, admittedly, small enough signs, and they were eclipsed by the many setbacks. The year opened well enough, just a mooth after the near-rapturous visit to Belfast by Bill Clinton, when the IRA ceasefire still held. But on Friday 9 February the IRA blew up Docklands, east Loodon, killing two men, and euphoria was replaced by dismay.

The year was punctuated by violence. Among other at-tacks, the IRA tried to blow up Hammersmith bridge, in west London, in April, and in June tre. In July, it had 10 tonnes Lisburn, County Antrim.

A soldier died in the Lisit was only good fortune which particular were aimed at causing as many deaths as possible. Yet it is also clear that dur-

ing 1996 the IRA was fighting. in its terms, only half a war, maintaining a level of activity which fell far short of its full capacity for maybem. People have died and destruction has been caused, yet the terrorists did not crank the conflict up to pre-1994 ceasefire levels.

The signs are that this re-stricted level of activity is inteoded to seed a political message. The republicans sent an emplicit message to London via John Hume: the proposition that the ceasefire would be restored if immediate oegotiations were guaranteed.

The SDLP leader met the

IRA within weeks of the Docklands bomh. Within a few mooths he and Gerry Adams had put together "Hume-Adams Mark 2," a draft for-mulation to be takeo to John Major. Mr Hume shuttled back and forward between Mr Adams and Mr Major, and in July, the Prime Minister gave Mr Hume the terms of a possible re-statement. In October, Mr Hume gave Mr Major another re-formulation; a week later, Mr Major replied to it.

It did not offer the republicans immediate entry into allparty talks, stipulating instead that any new ceasefire must be followed by an indeterminate monitoring period. On 28 November, Mr Major published his reply, and a week ago confirmed this was his "last definitive word on the subject before the electioo". This seems to have in effect closed the negotiation.

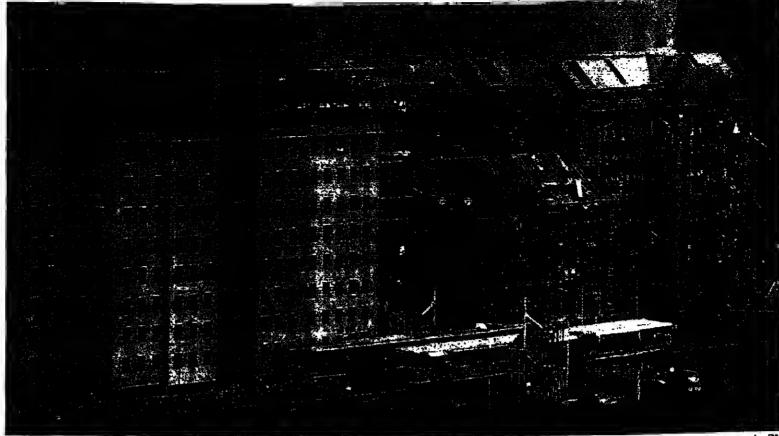
Opinions will forever vary on whether the Prime Minister's

it killed an Irish detective and attitude was dictated by high-blew up Manchester city cen-minded considerations of national security and protection of of explosives seized in London; the democratic processes, or by in October, it set off two car a rather more ignoble desire not bombs inside the army North-ern Ireland beadquarters at benchers and Unionist MPs. But the real surprise was not that the republican overture bad

burn attack, no one died in been turned down, but that it had Manchester, but in each case been made in the first place, despite the high risk of failure. This prevented large-scale loss of suggests that the republicans - life. The Lisburn bombings in like the rest of nationalist Ireland - believe the way ahead is not through restarting war, but a revival of the peace process.

The IRA ceaseire ended in

1996, but the peace process provided a model for an exit from the troubles. This is the difference between now and the 1970s and 1980s: in those days, violence seemed literally without end. Today, despite the bombs, there is ao assumption that it will, af-ter the election, be tried again; that there is a faint light dis-



Dangerous times: South Quay, in Docklands, east London, was shattered by an IRA explosion in February

Photograph: PA

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um and, as they have done for And the other male figure-heads? Prince Charles, the two decades, told the story of men in 1996. Good for them. Not so useful for men. The picof British men, looked out of ture that prevailed was inevitably stereotypical rather than innovative, partial rather ated from his society as be di-than complete, reflecting a fevorced his wife. As for his male rather than a male perspective. And its dominant images - abusive men, feckless the rest of us were so upset fatbers, criminal boys - were

Io 1997, men should start





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### Men plumb the depths of bad behaviour

Jack O'Sullivan relates a chronicle of atrocity, sin and lies

Let's face it: 1996 looked like a bad year for British males. Rather than a chronicle of the claborated the picture of great achievement it seemed men as pathetic inadequates to mark the descent of man.

Horrett Campbell attacked a group of toddlers with a 2ft ma-chete. These events further raised public arriety about the safety of children with men. So did the news earlier this month that one-third of Britain's police forces were investigating allegations of abuse by pae-dophiles in their childreo's homes. That's men, again.

Euro 96 offered some relief from men behaving borribly, a temporary boost to those who keep faith in male heroism. Vic-tory against the Netherlands, dignity in a narrow defeat by Germany and the elegance of Paul Gascoigne's great goal against Scotland were reminders of when men could feel proud. And then Gazza blew it. He beat up his wife, Sheryl, and reminded us of the modern shame attached to maleness.

He was not the only hero to tumble. Until "Randy Roddy" hit the headlines in September after running off with a divorced woman, he was the much-admired Roderick Wright, Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, a model of male celibacy and trustworthiness. Then it transpired that he had another mistress, who had borne a son, never publicly acknowledged by the hishop.

man who would lead the rest touch and out of date, distant from his children and alienfather, Prince Philip did oot seem eveo to understand why about handguns after the atrocities of Dunblane.

It all made for a fairly sad telling their own story.

to mark the descent of man.

The lowest point was
Thomas Hamilton and the killings in Dunblane. Theo

Thomas Hamilton and the killings in Dunblane. Theo too much. As a result, they die soocer. Io short, take away nanny and men end up with

one foot in the grave. So men have a problem with the way the lead their lives and it causes difficulties for everyone else. But the biggest problem in 1996 was their si-lence. Oo an individual level, many are experimenting with new ways of working, of being parents, of being masculine. But, unlike the days when feminism set its agenda, they are talking little to each other about what they are doing.

There is dearth of leader-

ship. It was not possible in 1996 to name a single significant male public figure who artic-ulated a fresh vision for men, a new dignified, useful and satisfying way to define them-selves. Thinking men abdicat-ed that responsibility, preferring to focus their energy on other forms of politics.
What does our maledominated Parliament have to say about the nature of meo? Nothing. MPs and oth-

er male public figures can speak about Labour and the Tories, about religion and foreign affairs. But not about themselves as men.
So women filled the vacu-

unrelentingly negative.

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Clinton romped home tapping a mood of peace and prosperity, but in an increasingly isolationist US, writes Rupert Cornwell

## America ruled by reasons for the quiet life



All things to all men: Americans opted for the status quo when they elected Bill Clinton as President for a second term in Novembe

price declines on the rare oc-

casions when the Republicans,

once the party of Wall Street.

seemed to bave a sniff of vic-tory. Expect him now to run the most conservative Demo-

cratie administration of the 20th century. And that, the election showed, is exactly

what the country wants, what-

ever its feelings about Bill

But contentment breeds an

inward gaze. To say America

has turned isolationist would

te an exaggeration. Despite the contempt for the United Na-tions that culminated in this

month's shoddy ousting of its Secretary-General, Boutros

Boutros Gbali, the Clinton

administration is well aware

that while the US is the world's

indispensable nation, it also

If anything, US involvement

needs a functioning UN.

Clinton the man.

he Oxford English Dic-tionary defines the word quadrennial as meaning 1) lasting four years, and 2) recurring every four years. They apevent which dominated America's affairs in 1996 - the presi-

dential election, technically held on 5 November but for which jockeying was under way before Bill Clinton had heen inaugurated for a first term in January 1993.

But all these mighty end-eavours resulted in anti-climax. Once the retired general Colin Powell, the strongest potential Republican candidate, announced in November 1995 that be would not run, Mr Clinton moved into a lead which hardly varied between the Iowa caucuses in mid-February, the kick-off to the primary season,

and voting day.

The Republican challenger,
Bob Dole, notwithstanding a singularly inept campaign, lost by only eight points.

The margin would almost certainly bave been larger but for the late-breaking controversy over seamy foreign fundraising by the Democrats, which raised familiar ethical doubts about Mr Clinton, and may have cost his party its chance of regaining at least partial control of Congress. But the basic message sent

by voters was plain. America is prosperous and at peace. Its citizens are increasingly conser-vative, but reasonably content with their lot, and unnerved at what an ideologically driven Republican party with unfet-tered control of the executive and legislative branches might

in peace-keeping and in other do. Thus they opted for the status quo, making Mr Clinton the first Democrat since Roosevelt multilateral missions has increased over the past four years. You just wouldn't guess to win a second term. Or rather, nominally Democratic. it by listening.

His greatest strength as a politician (and his greatest weakness) is his capacity to be In the campaign, apart from Mr Dole's periodic denunciations of "Bocotros Bocotros Ghali", and his supposed quest to wrest control of the US milweakness) is his capacity to be all things to all men. His campaign stole traditional Republican themes by the bucketful – among them law and order, tougher welfare rules and a balanced budget – itary from the Pentagon, foreign policy was barely menat one point producing the paradox of stock and bond-

6 His strength is his capacity to be all things to all men 9

tioned. "Has anyone got a for-eign affairs question?" pleaded the moderator Jim Lehrer towards the end of the second presidential debate in San Diego. After a silence, there was a rather sheepish inquiry about trade with Japan. The moment encapsulated two truths: that the demise of the Soviet Union has taken na-tional security off the table, and that if Clinton foreign policy has a constant, it is a focus on international economics.

But while foreign policy may not have affected the election, it certainly affected foreign-policy making. By no

coincidence, Mr Clinton's one important pronouncement of the campaign, a commitment to an enlarged Nato by 1999, came in Cleveland, Ohio home to great numbers of people of East European origin, swing voters in a crucial state. In the Middle East. American diplomacy was put on bold: what president wants

a skirmish with Israel in an

election year?

By luck rather than judgement, the administration got away with it, An uncommon and doubtless transient calm settled on the world in 1996. Despite the jolt to the Middle East peace process administered by Likud's election victory in May, most Wash-ington foreign policy objectives survived the year unscathed. Boris Yeltsin was re-elected.

Peace of a kind prevails in Bosnia, and Mr Clinton's decision to keep US troops in the Balkans for a further 12 to 18 months raised bardly an eyebrow. Relations with China seem on the mend, while Fidel Castro was, as always, an irri-tant. This time, though, his an-tics, by enabling Mr Clinton to talk tough on Havana to the Cuban-American community in Florida, may have belped the President carry a traditionally Republican state in November. The Mexican peso did not collapse, and Haiti did not

explode. About the only shots fired in carnest by the US military were the 44 cruise missiles launched against Iraq in early September. The end of history may not bave arrived yet, but in Washington this year

it has sometimes seemed so, In fact, none of the basic questions has been properly answered. Internationalism and isolationism continue their ageold struggle for America's soul. Despite Mr Clinton's promise, Nato enlargement remains a fiercely debated topic. Nor has a framework for American intervention abroad been established. Think-tanks and distinguished columnists yearn for a "Clinton Doctrine", an articulated foreign policy blue-print, Certainly, the door and cautious Warren Christopher was never likely to provide one. Perhaps that will change with the forceful new Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and the greater interest in fureign policy to be expected from a second-term President.

But here too, the "quadrennial" rule applies. Mr Clinton has not even been sworn in for a second term. In the meantime, quietly yet unmistakably, Vice-President Al Gore and a eluteh of Republicans are already manocuvring for election

Washington Correspondent

## Spin doctors and surgeons save the comeback kid

t is only a slight exaggeration to say that 1996 was the year that Boris Yeltsin rose from the dead. One year ago, politically and ill patient, whose chance of winning a second stint in the Kremlin were about as remote as the likelihood of his appearance on the centre court at Wimbledon for a game of his beloved tennis.

Yet the new year will dawn to find Mr Yeltsin back in office again, having - as far as we can tell - mended his diseased beart. His biggest blunder, the war in Chechnya, has finally ended (although the republic remains volatile). General Alexander Lebed, the politician who so openly aspired to jump into his shoes, is sidelined.

And many of his other opponents are beginning to look as though they might turn into nothing more lethal than De-nis Healey's famous dead sheep. It is too soon to say that the Russian President's comeback is assured, but the very fact that he has survived is nothing short of astonishing.

Cast your mind back, if you will. This time 12 months ago, the Communists had just swept to victory in parlia-mentary elections. Mr Yeltsin was a re-mote and ailing figure, being nursed in a sanatorium after his second heart artack of the year. Only one in 10 voters

had supported the government-backed party. "Our Home Is Russia".

Body bag after body bag was being flown back from Chechnya, each one a reminder of the awful cost of sending troops into the republic a year earlier for a war that some say has cost as many as 100,000 lives. Economic gloom, cynicism over privatisation, rampant crime, post-imperial depression, and nostalgia for the social safe-ty net of Soviet system, fused together to send Mr Yelisin's poll ratings plunging to a dismal 5 per cent.

With a presidential election foom-

ing in the summer, the odds pointed to a future in which Russia would be governed by the mexperienced Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, whose true political creed was uncertain - it vecred from moderate to diedin-the wool nationalist, according to his audience - and whose entourage inchided some alarmingly regressive clements. The West was worried. So were those who benefited from the collapse

communist and nationalist elothes, making sacrifices of politicians who were perceived to be pro-western, noThey revived the President, but can he resuscitate Russia, asks Phil Reeves



Dancing bear: Yeltsin fought a spirited campaign Photograph: Reuters

Chechen conflict with brute force, a fatal strategy which was so humiliatingly illustrated by the siege at Pervo-mayskoye when several days of pound-ing by Russian Grad missiles, helicopter rockets, special forces, and tanks failed to suppress a small force of lightlyarmed Chechens who were holed up of Communism, notably big business.
Yet the Kremlin seemed to be at a loss. At first, Mr Yeltsin tried to steal cluding their leader, Salman Raduyev - escaped,

You could argue that Mr Yeltsin was saved by his doctors from an "annus tably Andrei Kozyrev, the Foreign horribilis" that would have made the Minister. The same motive lay behind Queen's famous bad year look like a

his wild and bloody efforts to end the garden party. A huge role was, of course, played by the surgeons who carried out his quintuple by-pass operation in November - after he finally publicly admitted to the world what we had always suspected: that he had a serious heart condition. But, before that, it was the doctors from the Department

> As the count-down to the elections began, a team of advisers, headed by Anatoly Chubais and supported by a coteric of Moscow business magnates, set about resurrecting his fortunes. Helped by a national media that was generally willing to sacrifice impartiality to defend its own interests, they lavished

of Spin who saved his skin.

millions on a ruthless publicity cam-paign. Mr Yeltsin was transformed from a tired old man into a whirling dervish, who travelled the length and hreadth of the land dispensing (later broken) promises of money and favours.

Mr Yeltsin staged a last-minute clear-out from the Kremlin of the hardline "party of war" - including General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, and the head of the presidential guard, General Alexander Korzhakov, his close friend. Only days before the election's final round on 3 July, he disappeared from view again, crippled by beart trouble. But by then, the turn-around had been secured.

His teturn to seclusion precipitated a power struggle which owes its beginnings to one of the strangest twists of the year: the rise and fall of General Alexander Lebed. The ex-paratmoper general was catapulted to power by the Kremlin. When he won an impressive 10.7 million votes, Mr Yeltsin made him national security adviser and secretary of the Security Council in the hope of

inheriting his support in the run-off.

It was a short-lived liaison. The general made little secret of his ambition to take over from Mr Yeltsin, whom he began to criticise with increasing openness - particularly when the President was slow to embrace his crucial peace deal with the Chechens. But his main opponent was the President's new chief-of-staff. Anatoly Chuhais, who assisted by an alliance with Tatyana Dyachenko, Mr Yeltsin's daughter - took advantage of the President's illness to carve himself out a position as the country's most powerful official.

In October, General Lebed was fired. The general must now begin anew, building a political party and power base of his own.

As the new year hegins, a precarious calm prevails. The prospect that Russia will return to some form of communism has receded sharply in 1996, and may now be dead. But many of the economic and social ailments that made Mr Yeltsin so unpopular a year ago still exist. Nor is 1997 likely to be an easy year.

The agenda makes grim reading: unpaid wages and pensions, a battle to colleet taxes from a population that distrusts government, reform of the once-mighty military, attempts to scup-per the Cheehen elections, resentment over Nato expansion, endemic corruption, organised crime, and more. Mr Yeltsin may have amazed the world with his capacity for survival, but he will need every ounce of strength if he is overcome the problems that he in wait.

Moscow Correspondent



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## Middle East ruled by death and hypocrisy

It was a vicious, hypocritical year in the Middle East, a year which has scattered the seeds of the dreadful events which we shall inevitably witness in the vear to come. Almost every decision taken by every leader in the region was wrong, though with the grim perspective of hindsight it is easy to see how one act of folly led to another. Yigal Amir, the murderer of Yitzhak Rabin, must be laughing in his prison cell; everything he prayed for is coming true.

Shimon Peres bad postponed the elections in Israel but then, for reasons still unexplained, the Israelis murdered the Hamas bomber, Yamia Ayash, in Gaza. From this and from tsrael's gloating over his death there inevitably followed the Palestinians' wicked revenge: bus bombings in Israel.

And from those bombings followed an "anti-terrorist" conference in Egypt in March at which President Bill Clinton, grieving over Israel's civilian dead and desperate to give Mr Peres his election victory, gave Israel the green light for any future "anti-terrorist" adventures. So when a bomb killed a Lebanese boy in Lebanon in April, the Hizbollah retaliated with Katyusha rockets into 1srael and Mr Peres let his army off the leash - courtesy of the Clinton green light – to give the Middle East another bloodbath, the cruelly named "Operation Grapes of Wrath".

It was supposed to win Mr Peres the election; Mr Clinton would also later bomb Arabs, this time in Iraq, in another preclection demonstratioo of toughness, although with rather more success at the subsequent polls. But Israel's April bombardment of southern Lebanon targeted civilians rather than Hizbollah men. A mere 13 guerrillas were killed but every

From Qana to Algeria, western blindness only ensured that things got worse, writes Robert Fisk



Revenge: Twenty-two people died when a Hamas suicide bomb blew up a bus in Jerusalem, in retaliation for the Israelis' assassination of Yamia Ayash Photograph: Reuters

day the Israeli air force and army struck at civilians, firing at apartment blocks, ambulances. UN bases, all the time claiming to be hitting "terrorist targets". Israel slaughtered

and children, 101 of them in the UN's base at Qana. The Israelis claimed it was a mistake - the Hizbollah had been firing from Qana at an Israeli patrol laying booby trap bombs in the UN more than 170 men, women zooe - but the UN concluded

the shelling was probably de-liberate and The Independent From President Clinton, who revealed a videotape which clearly showed an Israeli pilotless photo-reconnaissance aircraft over Qana while the atrocity was taking place.

expressed such understandable sorrow at the deaths of Israelis two months earlier, came not a word of condemnation. But it didn't help Mr Peres, who lost the election, partly, per-haps, because his traditional Arab Israeli supporters were so disgusted by Qana. When Ben-jamin Netanyahu's Likud government took over, the Arab world quickly understood what this meant: Mr Netanyaho in effect tore up the Oslo accord while its US guarantors did oo more than cluck disapprov-ingly from the sidelines. The deal that now looks set to be

struck will not change that.

Promised independence if they belped the Allies in the 1914-18 war, their world had been secretly partitioned by the superpowers, while the British promised their support for a Jewish bomeland in Palestine.

Now the "land-for-peace" agreement, under which the US had staked its honour, and under which the Palestinians were encouraged to believe that they would acquire a state, proves to have been worth no more than the promises which Lawrence of Arabia gave to the princes of the Hejaz.

Yet the Americans remained obsessed with the idea of Islamic "terrorism", with the encouragement of the Israelis. When a TWA airliner fell .

into the sea off. New York, American journalists vied with each other to name the guilty Arabs while the Jerusalem Post blamed Iran, referring to the "slobbering" Muslims respoo-sible for such a supposed crime.

Now that the Boeing company may have more to explain than the mullahs of Tehran by the year's end, a technical fault seemed the most likely explanation for the disaster - such claims have been quietly forgotten. But when the Americans were hit by a real act of Islamist" violence, in the Saudi city of Dhahran, they were,

Ossama bin Laden, one of many Gulf dissidents who may

corrupt regimes of the Gulf in order to impose their own ruthless version of "Islam", appeared in the fast-ness of Afgbanistan to tell The Independent that the British and the French should also withdraw their soldiers from the land of Mecca and Medina.

stopp ngle cu jugger

But ironically, last year was the start of a new European relationship with the Middle East. Mainly because of America's collapsing credibility and prestige in the region, the Arabs saw Europe, and particularly France, the old mandate power in Syria and Lebanon, as ao alternative to the world's only superpower.

When the French Prime Minister, Jacques Chirac, toured the Middle East, telling a lot of home truths which the Arabs and an ever larger number of Europeans had been waiting to hear, he was fêted as a saviour. He was oothing of the kind, but France's diplomatic initiative it included the involvement of Paris in the April ceasefire in Lebanoo - marks a new role for Europe in a regioo in which it lost all credit during the 1956 Suez

Elsewhere in the Middle East, the bad got worse. Algeria's sadistic war became ever more gruesome as a military-backed regime went on fighting an ever more savage "Islamist" guer-rilla army whose throatcuttings have embarrassed even the most fundamentalist of Iranian clerics.

In Iraq, the children went oo dying, at least until the oil began to flow again this month, while Saddam Hussein continued to rule as his son killed his son-in-law and then got shot himself.

Such family borrors pelped to distract a US that is now being divided by Israel - between those of its citizens, led by prominent members of the Jewish community, who still support Mr Netanyahu and those who dare to question the United States' submissiveness to Israel's every whim.

-Middle East Correspondent

# Divisions of the past still cloud the rainbow nation

Abolished in theory, apartheid is everywhere, writes Mary Braid

moment Aluwani Netsianda, 25-year-old press officer for the new, democratically elected, ANC-led council, was striding confidently up the path out-lining plans for the former "independent" bomeland Venda; the oext be was tonguetied, unsure, eyes cast down.

standing ahead of us - a fat, blond white South African policeman. Despite all the conscious raising on the long road to freedom, Mr Netsianda was reduced to "boy" again in the presence of "baas". "He used to beat me up during demons-trations," an embarrassed Mr Netsianda explained later.

It seems almost trite that race dominates a country like South Africa; but six months into my stint here, its all-pervasiveness still shocks.

Two years after the end of white minority rule Mr Ne-tianda's humiliation is a subtle moment in the racial shakedown under way. Now and again there are more obscene lashes, like the middle-aged woman who cocked ber thumb owards the run-down huts at he bottom of her garden, during my search for a house to reot, aod said: "You can bave him if you like. If you don't want him, we'll evict him." She was referring to the black garden-er who lived on the premises. She went oo to offer some

dvice about bandling lazy "bleks". That was in your face. More often the racism lurks, shark-like, beneath the surface, the real root of some other problem". Ask white South Africans why they have forsaken Johannesburg's city centre in their tens of thousands, moving offices nearer their luxurious, and increasingly fortified, homes in the predominantly white northern suburbs and they will answer: crime.

The city centre's crime rate is undeniably high. But scratch a little and discover the seldom mentioned bogeyman - Africa: squalid, poor and black, which the continent's white South Africans, eyes forever fixed on Europe, have for centuries tried to ignore. In the northern many whites remain strangely



Divided: Mandela and FW de Klerk represent the two sides of a nation

blinkered, even blind.

suburbs the city could be Surrey. So it was once with the centre when rich white ladies in long white gloves met for tea served by black waiters, banished to townships after dark. But when legislation designed to keep blacks down -and out of white areas - began to crumble, the dark continent began to seep and then flood through. Whites, appalled at the loss of ownership, evacu-ated. Dennis Beckett, a South African journalist, calls the retreat to high walls and pan-ic buttons the "look-at-Africa-and-run-like-hell" syndrome. It is a dangerous condition; it

helps keep apartheid in place without the need for legislation. Despite the aspirations of President Mandela's rainbow nation there are still two South Africas; one white, the other black. Writes generally drive cars; blacks queue for minibuses. Road-repair gangs are black; foremen white. Against the background of

this social schizophrenia, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has wrestled this year to heal a sick society. The statesanctioned violence that was required to keep racial madness in place has been laid bare in testimony to the commission, and in the recent court case involving the self confessed state assassin Eugene de Kock. But

During a three-week trip to Rwanda in November I en-countered the feared dark heart of Africa. In this lush, green country dominated by spectacular volcanic mountains the international press corps was on Hutu refugee watch. Two years before the hotel we shared in Gisenyi, on the border with Zaire, was the headquarters for Hntn militias as they carried out the geno-cide of 800,000 Tutsis. Few of us swam in the beautiful hotel pool. In 1994 it had been filled with the corpses of meo, women and babies. Across the border in rebel-

held Goma, squalor nestled next to opulence. In President Mobutu's luxurious lakeside villa, giant, gallon-size bottles of pure French perfume dec-orated the his 'o' hers Jacuzzis. A quarter of a mile down the road Mr Mobutu must have travelled to reach his holidate home was the crumbling block of flats which until the rebellion had housed his unpaid and corrupt armed forces. This was the African caricature. A continent of war, violence,

poverty and tin-pot dictators. When I returned to South Africa, whites discussed the Great Lakes crisis as if it was happening on another planet. "It's tribal, isn't it?" said one

could Mobutu five like that when his people were so poor?" and the cruel indifference of

the ruler to the ruled to "black oo black" violence at home. But she was blind to any coonection with the violence perpetrated by South Africa's own white tribe, despite months of harrowing testimony at the truth commissioo. Among South Africa's blacks there is a strong feeling

that no one will pay for the sins of the past. One of the saddest momeots of the past six months occurred in October outside a Durban court when General Magnus Malan, former Defence Minister, and one of apartheid's most hated figures, was cleared of murder after a seven-month trial failed to prove that he issued orders leading to the massacre of 13 people in a village south of Durban.

A grinning General Malan stood on the steps outside the court professing his innocence and Christianity. A few feet away Anna Ntuli, who lost three daughters and ber busband in the KwaMakutha massacre, stood quietly watching. She was bewildered. "My children and my busband died and yet no one killed tham," she said. Then she began to cry.

South Africa Correspondent

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## No stopping the single currency juggernaut

Europe has turned the corner and monetary union is inevitable, writes Andrew Marshall

t has been a strange year in Europe, one of manoeuvring and shadowboxing, hedging and ditching. Yet out of this mess, a greater truth is emerg-ing: Europe will have a single

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At the beginning of 1996, it would bave looked to a casual observer as if monetary union might not happen at all The economics looked dodgy. the politics worse, and the prospects for success by 1999 seemed slight. By the end of the year, all that had turned around - to the extent that the actual notes were on display. For the first time, monetary union had become a concrete reality, a tangible fact: we could see the colour of the money. It is likely to prove a turning point.

The combination of slow growth in Europe and political opposition have both looked to be formidable obstacles to a single currency ever since the goal was agreed at Maastricht in 1991. The economic numbers from France and Germany (let alone the rest) looked as if they would make the project impossible. And in what could bave been an important turning point, mooetary union appeared as a divisive issue in the domestic pobtics of the state which matters more than all the others: Germany. The opposition Social Democrats campaigned against the euro in Baden Württemberg under the slogan: "Stability and jobs have priority oow. Postpone EMU." But this call was soundly

rejected by the electorate. Bit by hit this year, the project has picked up momentum. At meetings in Verona, in Florence, and in Dublin, the EU started to put flesh on the bones. The oew ootes, unveiled in Dublin this mooth, may have been the most visible evidence of progress; but ject thunders oo down the realm of the practical. more important still was the so-road, making progress in a

agreement that will regulate the workings of economic policy under monetary union. It is towards the goal of a single currency for Europe. As the Dublin summit showed, the the workings of economic pol-icy under monetary union. It is one of the basic building blocks

for a single currency.

Technically, it sets the rules for the acceptable limits of budget deficits for countries that participate in the euro. Politically, it ensures that Germany has a guarantee that the euro will be as stable and reliable as its own currency.

None of this means that the struggles are over, of course. The protests against hudget cuts that have echoed across the main squares of Europe this year have shown that the divisive effect of cuts and austerity packages can generate anger and effective opposition. There will be more

Periodically, the effusion of opposition seems to crystallise

#### 6 The debate has rarely made contact with the reality 🤊

into a real problem for monetary mnion. At least twice this year - in January and September - the flood of protests, expressions of doubt amongst the great and good of Europe and economic rumblings cast doubt on the enterprise.

It is partly a question of perception. Because of the sometimes tortuous way in which EMU advances, and because so much of the preparation is highly technical, the solidity of the single currency seems in doubt. Roadblocks and riots in Eorope are more graphic, more obviously solid than meetings of finance ministers.

But the reality is that the procalled "stability pact", an sometimes haphazard way

fundamental political will in the rest of Europe is still there, and strikes by French and Greek lorry drivers or demonstrations in Rome will not divert it.

In Britain, the debate has moved this way and that over the course of 1996, rarely making contact with the reality of what is going on in Europe. Shadow boxing between and within the Labour and Conservative parties did little to clarify the basic issue: whether or not Britain will participate in a single currency. Both parties appeared to move further away from participation - yet neither would issue concrete statements with an election around the corner.

But there were vague stirrings this year in Britain, a sense of awakening from the prolonged sleep of the last five years. For the first time, there was an apparent recognition that something is actually happening. One index of this is the gap between what Malcolm Rifkind said in January and what he said in October. The Foreign Secretary, at the beginning of this year, was letting it be known that he thought the project to be on its last legs, and that he believed a postponement was just around the corner. By the time he made a landmark speech in Zurich in October, the angle was different. Instead, monetary union was presented as an immineot reality, albeit a risky and

dangerous ooe. That does not mean that the battles are over - indeed the biggest battle of all, over who takes part and who does not is still some way down the road. But over the next year, there will be more and more signs of monetary union, taking it further off



Blockade: Protests by French lorry drivers against budget cuts to help meet EMU targets meant gridlock for thousands

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Magnet Food for thought

## China lurks behind the Asian tigers

Peking is the key to tensions throughout the

#### continent, writes Richard Lloyd Parry

the last 12 a spectacular year which saw terrorist attacks and earthquakes in Japan, ouelear tests in China and the South Pacific and, throughout the region, wrenching com-memorations of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Pacifie war. The crises of 1996. were of a different order: few big splashes, but many inconclusive ripples.

In March, the US 7th Fleet steamed into action after China began a series of war games in the run-up to the first ever democratic elections in Taiwan. But the polls went ahead, the winner Lee Teng Hui prudently chose oot to declare independence from Peking, and the battleships steamed peacefully home again.
There were no big wars or

natural disasters or dramatic falls from power in East Asia in 1996, and the year ended with displays of high-profile unity at economic summits in Manila and Singapore.

But to take this relative calm for stability, or to assume that the changes that have transformed European security have had an equivalent effect in Asia, would be premature.

Five years after the evaporatioo of the Soviet threat, Asian governments are in a state of noeasy readjustment. But classic communism is in decline in Asia, like everywhere else. In June the Communist Party of Vietnam held its party congress beneath giant images of Marx and Lenin - hut behind the rhetoric the Central Committee's report read in parts like the work of Western management consultants. Even North Korea, the world's hold on to their power. Fellow last Stalinist bastion, welcomed feeling among Sonth-east

sia has seemed Westerners in September to its almost quiet over first Free Trade Zone.

But ideological differences months: 1995 was are still alive in Asia, as this year demonstrated. For years, students of economics and international affairs have debated the existence of "Asian values" - hard work, strong, supportive families and a willingness to sacrifice the interests of the individual for the

good of the group.

Authoritarian states such as Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia have long attracted the concern of Western human rights organisations; the focus for this was Burma, and its democracy leader Anng San

6 To take this relative calm for stability would be premature 9

harassment by the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slore). In July, governments in Europe and America reacted with anger a probationary member of the Association of South East Asian Nations [Asean].

decision was understandable by embracing rather than judging the Slore, Burma's Asean brethren will have their best chance of setting the nation towards wealth and democracy.

Suu Kyi, who maintained her dignity in the face of continued when Burma was welcomed as

On the face of it, the Asean

But the appeal to Asian valoes is looking more and more like an excuse for despots to

Asians did little for the Indonesians arrested in the aftermath of the July riots for their peaceful opposition to the government - nor for the in-habitants of East Timor, the former Portuguese territory

annexed 20 years ago. The correspondences be-tween Burma and Indonesia were emphasised in October with the award of the Nobel Peace Prize, previously won by Ms Suu Kyi, to Bishop Carlos Belo and Jose Ramos-Horta of

But at the deepest level, the Burma dispute, like almost all the other tensions in the region, is about China. Peking already has the world's bigge army; in the first quarter of the next century it will have de-veloped the world's biggest economy. Scratch away at most of the incidents, spats and stand-offs which have flickered throughout Asia in 1996 and you will find China. To the Asean countries,

China is a source of fear and opportunity. By maintaining an ambivalent distance from the values of the West, they leave open the option of eventual détente with Peking, while constructing a reassuring cordon sanitaire out of new members such as Laos, Cambodia - and Burma. Increasingly, future Chinese assertiveness was fore-shadowed in the form of territorial disputes - from the seemingly trivial squabble over the lonely Senkaku/Diaoyutai chain, claimed by Japan, to sabre-rattling over Taiwan.

In a sense, these disputes will remain unsolved until after the handover of Hong Kong at the end of June. Only then will China's neighbours have a sense of what to expect - or fear.

Tokyo Correspondent

n purely geographical terms, it's been a confusing year. Whether hecause of lotteryfunded refurbisbments, brewery-enforced overhauls or callous evic-tions, most of London's key purveyors of new writing have had to play "musical venues". So, in order to catch the latest new offering from the Bush, you've had to remember not to catch the tube to Shepherd's Busb but to head, instead, for the Lyric Studio or Electric Cinema. Going to the Royal Court now involves a trip into the West End and struggling to recall whether the Theatre Downstairs is the old Duke of York's or whether it's the old Ambassador's (aka the Theatre Upstairs – where Stephen Daldry and design-cr William Dudley have, to confuse matters still further, carved ont two new spaces the Stage and the Circle from the old auditorium).

than usual, up in the air.

It's heartening to report, though, that when you finally tracked down these places in 1996, you tended tu be given the goods. If one of the primary duties of theatre is to confront a society with itself - to make it catch its reflectinn from a new, revealing and inescapably warranted angle - then the Court and the Bush have both been fulfilling that function with great flair. The burgeoning talents of the post-Thatcher 20something generation, who write about the moral drift and tribal youth culture of enntemporary urban life, bave been handled with sensitivity and creative solicitude.

"Which side is up?" is a

question that is now, more

My one quarrel with Mark Ravenbill's Shopping and Fucking (which opened - in a flurry of censorious asterisks - in October and returns to the Royal Court on 8 Jan) is that it tried too hard to be the summary statement of our times. What can't he questioned is Ravenhill's skill at turning sharp empirical observatinn into a kind of diagnostic symbolism or the economy with which he conjures up a dysfunctional, disconnected, disposable world where the only relationships that can be trusted are those which can he turned into THEATRE

## Season of short, sharp shocks

The spaces have kept on the move, but then so have the best of the new writers. By Paul Taylor



transactions. It's an extreme vision and there are one or two scenes in the play which bad this critic on the point of fainting away. But it never feels gratuitous: rather, the work of a young man who can

look hard at moral horror and not lose his halance, sanity, wit or compassion.

hreak the hamster wheel of conventional West End theatre-going. The sound in-sulation at the Ambassador's That opening was also an example of how - albeit inidoes not allow both spaces to be used simultaneously, entially for pragmatic reasons the Court has contrived to tailing a late start (eg

9.30pm) for one of the evening's two shows. Can we think, in theatre terms, of a post-watershed slot? Certainly, if you take the example of Jim Cartwright's I Licked a Slag's Deodorant, the 9.30 start-time allows for a piece that is shorter (under an hour), more off-the-wall and more lyrically intense than you would normally expect in this neighbourhood—and one that can appeal to young adults who may have had a few drinks, rather than the one ritual gin and tonic, beforehand. It's good that Daldry, who could have charmed money for a Cavalier theatre season out of Cromwell himself, is using the financial backing of the financial backing of the Jerwood Foundation to such unstable ends.

As for The Beauty Queen of Leenane, written by the prolific, unstoppable newcomer, Martin McDonagh, whn seems to have marched straight to the top of the class, I couldn't decide whether it was the real thing or an extremely clever fake. It will be easier to tell if be has more than a quite awesome competence when his new play The Cripple of Inishmaan opens at the National next

month. Let's hope be does. In the West End proper, where McDonagh is surely bound, the play that bas set cash registers ringing is Yas-mina Reza's Art. The teamwork of Tom Courtenay, Albert Finney and Ken Stott is a delight to behold, but the piece itself is like something a computer might have come up with if asked to devise a worldwide boulevard hit. Nobody ever lost money on a play that can flatter either an audience's philistinism or its desire to feel in-the-know about fashionable cultural issues. Art also has the advantage of being a "Three Tenors Concert" without the music. It's a cut above Old Wicked Songs or Tolstoy (or anything else from the tiny amount of new work that has come into the West End from the largely non-subsidised sector). But that doesn't mean we have to fool ourselves about Art's quality. It's essentially a product, cleverly but shallowly written, for people who, when they hear the word "art", reach for

## Oh what a circus, oh what a show

#### MUSICAL THEATRE

Jesus Christ Superstar' has improved with age, and only a saintly 'Thoedora' could better it. By Edward Seckerson



25 years after the original

aints, swans, a Seventies Superstar. And the un-mistakable sound of Ibsen's Nora shutting that door behind her. Broadway once tried its hand at a musical version of A Doll's House. All doors slammed fairly sharpish on that one. There are no songs in Anthony Page's reve-latory production at the Playhouse Theatre. Just a very free adaptation of a very great play from Frank McGuinness, and the female performance of the year from Janet McTeer. I cannot even begin to imagine the energy, physical and men-tal, required to keep Torvald's "little woman" (and McTeer is anything but) in her place. The frightening thing about her dizzying Nora is the extent to which she has been swallowed up by the role expected of her. It's hard, not to say exhausting, to watch her flap, fret, and sim-per her way to that final scene.

Speaking of final scenes, the rather significant one at the close of Jesus Christ Superstar is more moving and more truthful than one would ever have thought possible of a show long since consigned to the scrapbook of post-hippy hip. But that's because the Australian director Gale Edwards takes it as she finds it. wards takes it as she finds it, and finds it as she takes it. And she takes it a whole lot further than Jim Sharman's original production did. It's a dynamic second coming played out in truly operatic fashion under the searching cross-beams of David Hersey's stunning lighting. John Napier has excavating. John Napier has excavat-ed an eye-catching Roman arena from the ruins of Hen-

discretions of Messieurs Rice and Lloyd Webber. In the case of the latter, no apologies are necessary. This sweet, soulful, fractured, quirky, gutsy score is of its time, for sure. It's just that its time is, so far, 25 years on and counting. Someone should get Gale

Edwards into an opera house. And fast. It won't be the Roy-Opera House, of course. Come July, there won't be one. Can anyone tell us what's going on? I know of one major international conductor who's been booked for The Barber of Seville but doesn't know where. Perhaps he never will. But back to 1996. Actually, Jesus Christ Superstar might well have been my opera (or "music theatre") production of the year, had it not been for the saintly Theodora at Glyndebourne. She was quite something. Partly on account of one George Frideric Handel, whose score - one achingly beautiful number after another - is among his unsung finest (the conductor William Christie subsequently got into all kinds of trouble for

gilding the period lily with all manner of delicious instrumental embellishments), but also thanks to three vintage per-formances from Dawn Up-shaw, Lorraine Hunt (a Handel snaw, Lorrame Funt (a France, stylist rivalled only by our own Ann Murray), and the aston-ishing American counter-lenor David Daniels. The production, from that ageing young turk, Pe-ter Sellars, was predictably despised in some quarters. Small misgivings apart, I thought it beautiful and dignified. For those who still decry opera in English because "it sounds siladopted hand gesture as an extension of feeling and sense. And it made perfect sense in Theodora: a universal language for a universal faith.

In case you hadn't heard, it's official: London's West End currently houses the longestrunning dance production of all time. And it's a success born of Matthew Bourne's Adventures in Motion Pictures company. Swan Lake is capturing everyone's imagination: balletomanes, balletophobics, traditionalists and revisionists alike. Word of month is filling the Piccadilly Theatre. Punters are going back for a second and third time.

Why? Because, despite being dubbed "the gay Swan Lake". Bourne's funny and heartfelt re-imagining of this enduring classic touches everyone. It's about loneliness, isolation, desire, the dream of perfect love and the nightmare of imperfect reality, "Do not feed the swans" reads the sign. But the little old lady with ber bag of crumbs does not beed it. And the unloved prince, newly awakened, freed, transported, de-luded by the swan of his dreams, hugs and kisses her. Talk about irrigating the tear ducts in readiness for Act 2.

But, I can hear you asking, Never mind all this snivelling, what about the issues, the trends?" The only trend I care about is the one about there not being a trend. But, if I must, the BBC's Henry Wood Proms have been "trendy" for 101 years and have only now won the trust to be - and to go on being - the most adventurous classical music festival ry Irving's newly refurbished ly and you don't hear the words anywhere in the world. They broke all box-office records this octane cast make no apologies whatsoever for the youthful in-

Antonio Gades, who brought the stage version of Carmen;

Tango por Dos, with some more

Buenos Aires; and the Kirov

Ballet with The Nucracker. The Edinburgh Festival's commitment to dance was proved

yet again with the annual visit

by Mark Morris, Pina Bausch's

magnetic Iphigenie auf Tauris and a long-overdue visit from the Martha Graham Dance Company, which brought an il-luminating selection of influ-ential Graham works from the Thirties and Fortice

Other imports were decid-

dly substandard: Les Grands

Ballets Canadiens bored Sadler's Wells with its poor

technique and feeble chore-

Prince extravaganza Billboards may well have dragged the company finances into the black but has also dragged its

fine reputation into the mire

Contemporary choreogra-phy was far better served by the

home grow Stobban Davier,

the Jean Muir of British dance,

whose interrelated works Tres-

pass and Affections were the highlight of the 1996 Dance

Umbrella Festival of modern

work and a fitting celebration

of her newly-acquired £50,000 Prudential Award.

Thirties and Forties.

## The colour of money

Box-office takings reached 'Jurassic Park' heights. Teenagers chose 'Trainspotting'. Kids and parents agreed on 'Babe' and 'Toy Story'. By Ryan Gilbey

yours. The British publie's enthusiasm and eagerness not only to see a film but to be first in the queue meant that the phrase "higgest since Jurassic Park" rang out in boardrooms almost as frequently as "two fur Independence Day, please" was heard in cinema foyers.

Opening weekends, those crucial three-day periods when a film is deemed to have either Nature Calls needed to gang up to defeat the prehistoric record-holder, but they, too,

dinosaur adventure had been ing pig and a comedian in a bad safari shirt, uniting to give it a good kicking. Taking £7.2m in the year's first weekend. Seven, Bube and Ace Ventura: When

here was a lot of money about this year. Mostly industry news. Spielberg's 1993 were beaten later in the year by Independence Day's staggering Independence Day's staggering first three days, in which it clinging to its smile as the UK's higgest opener when along came a serial killer, a talk-November, and With £36.7m taken by mid-November, and with the film

still on release, it was a fore-gone conclusion that the pic-ture would be the year's biggest hit. In its wake came Toy Stony (£22 lm), Seven (£19 5m) and Mission: Impossible (£18.3m), with Twister (£14.8m), which had the best advance trailer of the year but little else, bringing up the rear. So that was where your mon-Death of a

ey went. But what was going on inside your mind? The year's box-office Top 10 tells the same story as ever - big films and kids' films (or, in the case of Mission: Impossible, big kids' films), although the success early on in the year of Seven, Heat and Trainspotting among late-teens and twentysomethings indicates that the seven cates that the target audience of so much product being spat out of Hallywood does, in fact, take its entertainment a little darker. In fact, so many young people were going to the cine-ma this year that it was deemed iudicious tn launch a new film magazine, Neon, to cater sole-

Some complained that Neon gave the cold shoulder to foreign pictures, but you could argue that this was simply a reflection of there being so little tu celehrate this year that wasn't in the English language. There were a few exceptions: Wong Kar Wai's Fallen Angels; Pedro Almodovar's The Flower of M. Secre. Pierre Savadon's Les Apprentis; Lars Von Trier's The Kingdom (which ruffled fewer feathers, but was a more astounding work than Von Trier's follow-up, Breaking the Wares). But the numbing lack of imagination in such induland Le Bonheur was overshadowed by the tragic sight of one of France's finest actors. Daniel Auteuil appearing in two of the year's worst films, The Eighth Day and Une Femme Française.



everyone who wanted to be a junkie but hated needles'

Several directors changed their stripes, and looked better for it: Mike Leigh discovered that humanity wasn't such a bad thing after all, and made his best film, Secrets and Lies, which won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival; Oliver Stone exhibited a sudden clarity of visinn in Nixon; Stealing Beauty was Bertolucci's most coherent and bewitching work since Last Tango in Paris; and Mike Figgis finally found the movie - Leaving Las Vegas - to suit his reputation, and his talent. But there's always one - and Woody Allen's Mighty Aphrodite proved that trashy comedies like Kingpin and Happy Gilmore didn't have the monopoly on regressive infantile

portraits of women. It was an American who came up with the year's most startling film: Todd Haynes's Safe was a ceaselessly unsettling study of a suburban housewife gripped in the teeth of an environmental illness. Along with the year's other best work - Seven and Toy Story it did things to you that you'd forgotten cinema was capable of doing. It took your breath

If there was something that hung heavy over the year, it the Champs-Elysées.

was, as always, controversy. From the desperate efforts to whip up something in the neighbourbood of curiosity about Showgirls and Striptease to the very real outcry over Kids, it was a year of outrage. Over the violence in Casino, the politics of Michael Collins, and as for Crash ... well, anyone who's seen it will gladly testify to being completely befuddled as to what exactly the world and its maiden aunt were objecting to there (you'll be able to judge for yourself if the film earns a certificate in time for its late-January release). The big success story, with all

its attendant controversy, remains Trainspotting. A small film about a big problem - drug addiction - it captured the imagination of everyone who wanted to be a junkie but hated needles, as well as those whose bedroom walls had been crying out for a new poster since the Betty Blue one fell down. Objecting to the picture estate chic was futile. It was unstoppable, thanks to a worlddominating poster campaign that bugged the hell out of you at home but made your heart jump when you ran into it on

DANCE

## Old but bold

Veterans such as Mikhail Baryshnikov (right) and revived classics were the class

of '96. By Louise Levene he Royal Ballet's first new work for 1996 was Matthew Hart's Dances

with Death, in which the HIV virus (Darcey Bussell in lipstick red) attacked the white corpuscles. The company also mined its repertoire with mixed results: a revival of Kenneth MacMillan's house-party rape drama The Invitation, coached by Lynn Seymour, was very welcome; the exhumation of his interminable three-act version of Anastasia, however, was less successful, despite giving both Viviana Durante and Sarah Wildor a chance to get their teeth into another of Seymour's

most famous roles. David Bintley was already doing good work as the new artistic director of Birmingham Royal Bailet. Bintley created his hyper-extended barn-dance Far from the Madding Crowd with one eye firmly on the boxoffice but the company staged a number of strong revivals in-cluding Jerome Robbins's 1951 tale of misandry and castration, The Cage. Birmingham also premiered Bintley's Nuteracker Sweeties, danced to Duke Ellington's Tchaikovsky homage and dressed to kill by Jasper Conran in tutus encrusted with Smarties and cof-

Revamped classics were popular. Matthew Bourne's Adventures in Motion Pictures toured the country with Swan Lake before settling in for a record-breaking run at Lon-don's Piccadilly Theatre, where they were joined by Lynn Sey-mour, making a comeback as Siegfried's dysfunctional nymphomaniac mother.

It was a good year for vet-erans. Mikhail Baryshnikov packed the London Coliseum packed the London Coliseum for a week in August with worshippers willing to watch any amount of humdrum padding so long as Misha was dancing in between.

Other dance phenomena also played to packed houses but with less critical success. Michael Flater, the former Riverdancer, toured the land

Riverdancer, toured the land with his modestly entitled Lord of the Dance, a farrago of Celtic codswallop that showcased his incessant jigging. The paying public's unhealthy appetite for engorged egos in tight trousers was again demonstrated when the obscenely hyped Joaquin Cortés performed a travesty of flamenco in a candle-lit Albert Hall. Only his foxy old uncle Christobal Reyes gave any indication of the true percussive power of the art

More welcome visitors were

And just really, 1

The Spin-thris dipped others Take The Land before the Technology of Transaction

Tak by Emma For

Akin Armstrong is outstanding. He doesn't demand attention, he compels it" David Thacker's evocative production... stunningly effective" "Miller's masterpiece" Lyttolton Theatre: Tonight, Tomorrow, Mon 30 Dec, Wed 1 Jan at 7.30pm, Sat 28 & Tues 31 Dec at 2.15pm & 7.30pm & continuing in repertoire. Royal
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## Last of the great showstoppers?

It was a good year for Degas, but a bad show all round when the V&A started charging admission. By Andrew Graham-Dixon

**VISUAL ARTS** 

his past year will large-ly be remembered for a number of remark-Richard Kendall's brilliant "Late Degas" at the National Gallery, and (at the same institution) Christopher Brown's exhibitrating show "Rubens's Landscapes". The Sainsbury Wing's basement galleries can sometimes seem depressingly sepulchral, but on these two occasions they seemed intimate instead – appropriate for works like Degas's late pastels or Rubens's landscapes, which are fascinating partly because they are works evidently charged with so much personal meaning for the artists who created them. The exhibitions were, of course, totally different from one another, but nevertheless the sense of having stumbled into some private chamber of a great artist's imagination was overpoweringly strong in each case.

The second secon

This type of relatively small but highly focused exhibition has prospered in recent years, especially at the National Gallery - although the credit for establishing it in this country as a credible al-ternative to the blockbuster should perbaps go to the Tate Gallery's director, Nicholas Sero-ta, who put on a number of smaller shows (eg "Max Beck-mann's Triptychs", "Late Léger" and others) during his time at the Whitened College in the 1900s Whitechapel Gallery in the 1980s.

Leaving aside the Tate's own enormous and inevitably popular Cézanne exhibition, it bas not heen a great year for the huge crowd-pulling exhibition. "Picasso and Portraiture", at the Mnseem of Modern Art in New York and the Grand Palais in Paris, was symptomatic – this was a some-what disappointing and oppor-tunistic event, a nakedly biographical exhibition that turned out to be considerably less revealing than the second volume in John Richardson's ongoing biography of the artist, which was

clearly the inspiration for it. The late 20th century's fascination with Picasso seems to be sbort-circuiting on a circular argument: his art is fascinating because it reveals him to have been a fascinating man; because he was a fascinating man, his art is fascinating. There is something fatally wrong with both



Degas: Dancer looking at the Sole of Her Right Foot Ursula and R Stanley Johnson Collection

Picasso", "Picasso and Things", "Picasso: Painter/Sculptor" and "Picasso and the Mediterrangan", it is perhaps time for curators to stop treating his work, like that of the Impressionists, as an inexhaustible natural resource - and an easy way for them to

meet their attendance quotas. Perhaps the most ill-omened event of the year occurred on 1 October, when the Victoria & Albert Museum finally gave up politely inviting visitors to make

these propositions. Besides in the a contribution and instead in-wake of such recent large and well-attended exhibitions as "Late mission charge. Dr Alan Borg, the director of the museum, was cast in certain quarters as the villain of the piece, but in reality be bad government grant of £30m, to meet annual costs of £38m, has been cut by £1m this year, with a further cut of £1m earmarked for 1997-8. There is little government raising the grant.

A few weeks after the V&A

had introduced charges, the fu-

ture of free museums in Britain

was further called into mestion by the publication of a report commissioned by the Trustees of the British Museum. Its author, trethed deputy securiary of the Treasury, Andrew Edwards, recided that the British Museum also bring in compulsory charges to help combat its crip-pling deficit. His other recomdations were that the museum should market itself more aggressively (ie make its displays less scholarly and more "popular") and that it should shed staff.

The museums in question will

probably survive the introduction of charges more or less intact There are grounds, too, to believe Dr Borg when he says that charging does not deprive the poor of the experience of museums; those who have done research in this area tell us that hardly any poor people go to museums, free nr not, anyway. But that is no rea-son not to fight those who would seek to erode the principle of free admission. The founding fathers of the British Museum, full of grand Augustan self-confidence, declared that its primary function was to serve as a collection of national treasures "for the use and benefit of the public, who may bave free access to view and peruse the same"; likewise, the emment Victorians who founded the V&A were adamant that it sbould be a free national resource. The gap that separates us from them is, it seems, a large one. There is a long and commendable tradition in Britain of ensuring free public access to literature, art, and other materials of self-education and self-enlightenment - the public library system and the BBC are equally embattled manifestations of the philanthropic social principles that underlie that tradition. But our thin-lipped, mean-spirited politicians and civil servants would seem to regard philan-thropy as a dirty word and social principles as tokens to be traded charges at the V&A might not seem momentous to everyone. But it is yet another symbol of Britain's transition from a relatively generous and large-spiritprospect, it is said, of a Labour ed society to a mean and government raising the grant. small-minded one. The notion that all institutions should be run

as if they were businesses is the



### Our Friends in the States

The old adage that US import equals trashy viewing was finally laid to rest, just as pseudo-science took over the schedules. By Thomas Sutcliffe

It was a year that confounded some received opinions about British television. Who could re-ally argue, for example, that Amer-ican imports are little more than cheap filler for British schedules in a year that delivered Munder Onc. Stephen Bochco's imperial display of industry clout? Murder One wasn't perfect, and it disgraced itself with its final episode, but the gloss and style of the 22 that went before had an undeniable, extravagant force and converted this critic into a slavish viewer (not to mention the fact that it also possessed the Signature Tune of the Year). In comedy, too, the Americans proved that their production-line technique, lavishly funded and prodigiously well staffed, could frequently defeat the two-man craft-sbops of British sitcom. The Americans would be unlikely ever to produce something as wayward as Father Ted, easily the best British comedy of the year, but they are unlikely to worry too much given that they can turn out programmes like with such consistency (the latter, incidentally, is not just comedy of the year but front-runner for Comedy of the Decade - savage, hilarious proof that irony is an indigenous American firm). I confess, 100, that I finally capitulated to Friends (run-

#### TELEVISION

treat it as a radio programme, so that it is possible to enjoy the script without having to endure the gesticu-lating self-congratulation of the east. In homegrown drama, the headline event was Our Friends in the North, although I never quite managed to match my genuine admiration for its ambition with any real warmth of feeling for the thing itself. In the more routine stretches of the schedules - the day-in, day-out feeding of that endless appetite for nar-

rative - several things stood out: This Life was a witty, convincing account of an ecology rarely captured on tele-vision, the life of young single peo-ple in and out of their first johs; *The* dpiress restored a gothic shudder to the English detective serial; and The Crow Road showed that compelling drama need not follow the ruts of the established genres. Documentaries were in good

shape too. The House proved that had plenty of buzz left in it and Mod-em Times continued to stretch the established documentary techniques (a case in point would be Lucy Blakstad's documentary about flat-sharing, which used multiple cameras to film flat-mate interviews ner-up in the Signature Tune cate- as the emotional dramas they are). gory, with its bubble-gum hommage It was also a year in which a new to The Monkees), though it is best to genre confirmed its existence. Fol-

lowing on the success of The Real Holidar Show, Moving Houses exploited the ability of hand-held video to get inside people's houses and their lives, a quality that also distinguished the hest of the year's Video Diaries - a film about the

rigours of adopting a foreign child, Easily the most pernicious de-velopment of 1996 was the viral spread of paranormal programmes, a plague that announced its arrival on BBC with the televisual bubo of Out of This World, bosted by Carol Vorderman and several hundred kilos of dry ice. Out of This World comnos of dry kee. Out of this toma com-pounded the sin of wilful credulity with that of hypocrisy, presenting itself as sceptical inquiry hut undermining common sense at every turn, with tricks of lighting and verbal innuendo. Truly a bias against understanding.

There are antidotes to Ibese triumphs of ignorance in the form of Horizon and Equinox, the second of which carned a Distinguished Conduct Medal for its documentary terrestrial sightings. Unfortunately the people who need the antidotes most are most unlikely to take them. Turkey of the Year (should you still feel peckish) was unquestionably Wanted, in which Channel 4 spent thousands of pounds on establishing beyond contradiction that watching people waiting in telephone boxes isn't very interesting.

## And just what did we really, really want?

The Spice Girls slipped in where Take That left off. And Techno terrorists went chartside. By Emma Forrest

The Prodigy had two No 1 hits with "Firestarter" and "Breathe". Underworld's "Born Slippy" (taken from the Trainspotting soundtrack) dominated summer radio. The Chemical Brothers and Noel Gallagher had a No 1 with "Setting Sun" (an appropriation of The Beatles' Tomorrow Never Knows", affectionately known as "Tomorrow Never Noels"). Tori Amos went the other way: ber single "Profession-al Widow" didn't make much of an impact on the charts. but the re-mix by Armand Van Heiden was the club-land hit of 1996.

After a disastrous performance at the Reading Festival, the Stone Roses finally called it a day (irrepressible bassist Mani defected to Primal Scream, while guitarist John Squire has written with Liam Gallagher). Their Manchester peers, the Charlatans, suffered the loss of their keyboardist Rob Collins in a car crash. But they returned with "One To Another", a kind of Nineties "I Will Survive" and the unchallenged single of the year.

was the year that Preachers overcame the loss Britain's techno terrorists
took over the pop charts.
e Prodigy had two No 1

Go, their most accessible and successful album yet. Fellow Welsh boys Super Furry Animals made Fuzzy Logic – as innovative an album as Beck's Odelay but more fun to listen to.

The Spice Girls sold Girl Power to the nation's young females and then urged them to vote Tory. The post breakup careers of the boys from Take That proved that context is everything. Away from his pals, band clown Robbie Williams became a drunken fool. Gary Barlow's solo effort was so tedious it made Céline Dion look like Frank Zappa. And little Mark Owens appears to be going for the Michael Jackson "I'm so creepy" market. Jackson's star fell as that of his evil nemesis Jarvis Cocker sbot to the stratosphere. And Madonna, taking on the role of Evita,

metamorphosed from pop tart to torch singer. Bhir spoke of their joy at being the underdogs again and of the spiritual enlightenment they have found while recording their new album in Iceland. Kula Shaker offered us their own danceable slices of mys-



The Spice Girls: the most convincing argument yet for joining the Young Conservatives?

tic mumbo-jumbo. A spate of Oasis biographies were pub-lished that almost all managed to make a dreary story out of the most exciting band in Britain. The exception was Paul Mathur's witty Take Me There, which was affectionate

without being sycophantic. On the rap front, The Fugees made it buge with their lifestyle album *The Score*, while LL Cool *J* bounced back with the brilliant re-mix of "Loungin". Tupac was killed and Chuck D compiled a list of reasons trying to prove that the long-lashed gangsta had faked his own death.

Richard Fearless was the best DJ in London, taking up residency at The Heavenly Social (the club that launched The Chemicals).

The gig of the year was Bruce Springsteen, stripping it down at the Brixton Academy (where he sang a stunning "Born in the USA" without

ever saying those words).

Hotly tipped for 1997 are
Hurricane - Alan McGee's latest signing to Creation -and Kylie's collaboration with James Manic. Meanwhile, Björk is still unlistenable and Frank Sinatra is still



**MECHANICAL** 

#### University of Ulster

Faculty of Informatics/Faculty of Engineering

The Interactive Systems Centre (ISC) at Magee College is a mails disciplinary research, development and consults facility working in the field of multimedia interactive facility working in the tield of musimenta interactive systems and microprocessor embedded applications in Information Technology. The ISC, which is supported by the International Fand for Ireland, has recently begun work on three major EU funded projects: TALENT (Training and Learning Environment with Networked Tutoring), PrOMinent (The Promotion of OMI by a User Support Network Centre) and STEPCAM (A System Level Development Toolchain for Embedded Performance Critical Applications in a Universal Microcontroller). Posts within TALENT/prOMinent are tenable until 30 September 1997, STEPCAM until 30 November 1998 in the first instance with the possibility of extension subject to

Faculty of Informatics

Research Fellow: Project Manager - TALENT Ref: C96/286/IND

To be responsible for the day-to-day research activities of the TALENT Project and the monitoring of progress according to the plan of work. Applicants must have a first or upper second class honours degree in comparing and a minimum of 5 years' experience in the management of computer projects in both academic and industrial environments together with experience of interface between software design specifications and development, computing education development, presentation and assessment of computing and retraining and the ability to demonstrate extensive experience if internet and related technologies for remote teaching/fearning. Starting Salary will be in the range £19,848 - £25,035

Research Fellow:

Multimedia Development Tools -TALENT Ref: C96/287/IND To maintain and manage the research and development activities of the TALENT Project. Applicants must have a first or apper second class honours degree in computing and at least 5 years' software development experience in a university or industrial environment together with strong software development skills including multimedia programming and software tools development.

Research Officer: www **Development Tools - TALENT** Ref: C96/288/IND

arting Salary will be in the range £19,848 - £21,519

To work on the design and development of antiware for the TALENT Project. Applicants must have a first or second class honours degree or equivalent in computing, engineering or related discipline and at least 2 years' experience in the development of application softwar Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £19,848

Research Officer: Multimedia Development

Tools - TALENT Ref: C96/289/IND Applicants must have a first or second class honours degree or equivalent in computing, engineering or related discipline and have at least 2 years' experience in the development of application software including at least 2 years experience in systems and network administration. Strong software skills are essential as is experience of network deconfiguration and management involving Mac, PC and Unix

Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £19,848 Research Assistant:

Network Management prOMinent Ref: J96/290/IND

Responsible for the design, specification and mainte the support centre's WWW pages and database the support centre's www pages and uninouse requirements. Applicants must have a first or second class honours degree or higher degree in computing, electronic engineering or a closely related discipling and must have experience of developing and maintaining WWW pages. Preference will be given to candidates who can demonstrate strong software design skills, knowledge of computer

Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £15,154

JUNIVERSITY of LSTER

Faculty of Engineering Research Officer: Microprocessor Development Tools - prOMinent

> Ref: J96/280/IND Responsible for engaging in research and development of microprocessor systems with particular emphasis on the requirements of local industry and a support centre network Applicants must have a first or second class honours degree or higher degree in electronic engineering, comparing or related discipline, experience of microprocessor systems and appropriate software design tools. Preference will be i to applicants who have 2 years' postgraduate rience in either a university or industrial R&D

Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £17,466

Research Officer: Microcontroller Toolset Design & Development -STEPCAM Ref: J96/298/IND

development of a interocurrence women and as seasons and implementation of problems that will adequately exercise and evaluate the toolset. Applicants must have a first or second class honours degree or higher degree in

systems including hardware design and appropriate soft Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £17,466

Research Officer: Microcontroller Toolset Design & Training -STEPCAM Ref: J96/299/IND

ants must beve a first or second class honours degree or higher degree in electronic engineering or related discipline and demonstrate experience of microprocessor/microcontroller technology or embedded systems including hardware design and appropriate softw design tools and the design and development of technica Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £17,466

Research Officer: Microcontroller Toolset Integration - STEPCAM Ref: J96/300/IND

To be responsible for the specification of inter toolset communication standards and protocols, the application programming interfaces, the implementation of the tegration of the tools, and the design of an open RTOS nterface. Applicants must have a first or seco s degree or higher degree in computing, electroni ring or related discipline and must demonstrate nowledge of Windows NT operating systems, distributed vstems and user interface design. Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £17,466

Salaries will be subject to funding and will be within the appropriate range for research staff

Research Assistant; £14,317 - £15,986 Research Officer: £14317 - £21,519 £19,848 - £26,430 Research Fellow: 10 Jaquary 1997 21, 22 & 23 January 1997

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Recruitment Office, University of Ulster at Coleraine, Cromore Road, Coleraine, Co Londonderry BT\$2 ISA. Telephone: (01265) 324946 or internal extension 4957 (for Telephone: (01232) 368222 or internal extension 8222 (for posts with reference prefix J).

An equal content of the posts with reference prefix J. posts with reference prefix C) and the University of Ulster

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the Pacity of Pure and Applied Science.

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Joint Selection Committee (Science/Education), c/o Faculty of Education, S853 Ross, York University, 4700 Keele Street, North York, Onlario, Canada M3J-1P3.

FAX: 416-736-5609 INTERNET: bweert@edu.yorku.ca t Bev Merriman, Secretary to Committee), tletters and C.V.s only can be sent online in WP format while scholarly materials must

CLOSING DATE: Applications, postmarked up to 31 January 1997, will be accepted.

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#### Chair in Human Nutrition (Diet and Health) Ref: C96/276/IND

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discipline and have a substantial record of refereed publications. Proven ability/potential to attract major external research funding and experience of successful management of a research team are also essential. Applicants must also have had linkages/collaborations with the food industry and centres of internationally recognised research excellence and have the ability to strengthen links between the University of Ulster and the food industry, locally, nationally and internationally. It is desirable for applicants to have expertise in the areas of functional foods or nutrientgene interaction and to have experience of rollaboration with scientists in other relevant disciplines eg. molecular biology, genetics, immunology, biotechnology.

Not less than £32,000 Closing Date: 10 January 1997 Interview Date: 27 February 1997

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## business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

CE wins Northern takeover battle

Chris Godsmark

**Business Correspondent** Northern Electric, the Tyneside regional power supplier, has lost its fight against the £782m hostile takeover bid by US-owned CE Electric by the narrowest of margins and in almost unprecedented circumstances, following extraordinary last-minute

support from the company's biggest investor, the Prudential.
The result, which remained on a knife-edge to the end, was al-most swung in Northern's favour by the Prudential's move to buy shares in the company in support of the existing management from investors who had previously accepted the US bid. not to seek to challenge the the bank did not hold Northern By the close of the extended appeal result in the courts. offer deadline of 1pm on Christ-mas Eve, CE Electric spoke for 50.30 per cent of Northern shares, a small increase on the 50.13 per cent support declared

Victory for CE Electric followed the Takeover Panel's decision to reject an appeal by Northern against the deadline extension. Had the company won the appeal, CE Electric would have lost the battle, having gained only 49.77 per cent of shares by the original closing deadline of 1pm last Friday. Northern has apparently de-cided to accept defeat and will

appeal result in the courts.
The buying spree by the Prudential on Christmas Eve netted more than 900,000 Northern shares at 650p a share, the same price as CE's all-cash offer. It represented a stake of 0.8 per cent, raising the Prudential's shareholding in Northern to more than 12 per cent. Sellers are thought to have included Fleming Investment Manage-ment, Commercial Union, Eq-uitable Life and UBS, the Swiss

banking group. Salomon Brothers, the US in-vestment bank, denied suggestions it had sold a stake to the Prudential. A spokesman said

Defending its action, a Prudential spokesman said: "Our interest is in shareholder value. We have agreed with the board of Northern and many indepen-dent commentators that 650p is too low. If an offer were to be made at the right price we would expect the board of Northern to mmend the offer."

Though the result spells the end of another epic struggle by David Morris, Northern's chairman, who fended off a hid by Trafalgar House, the inquest into the defence tactics employed by the company and its brokers BZW is far from over.

BZW faces an investigation by the Takeover Panel into the controversial £250,000 -performance" fee agreed with Northern.

The panel will try to establish why BZW did not move to alert it of the arrangement until last Thursday night, the day after it bought 2.3 per cent of the company's shares in an attempt to boost its bid defence.

A BZW spokesman maintained the fee was in no way re-lated to success or failure of the Northern defence, and that "streouous" efforts had been to contact panel officials about the fee on Thursday evening. In another development, it has which is oo top of a flat-rate fee to BZW of around £1.5m, could be blocked permanently by the panel. It had been frozen pending the outcome of Northern's

appeal.

As he headed back to the US for Christmas, David Sokol, chairman of power generator CalEnergy, which controls CE Electric, said he was delighted with the outcome. He said: "We think this is a victors for the way. think this is a victory for the ma-jority in face of considerable odds. We now look forward to returning the company to its more normal business of serving

its customers. Though Mr Sokol was seek-

emerged that the £250,000, ing an orderly handover of power at Northern's Newcastle headquarters, a wholesale clearout of board directors was now in prospect. Only Ron Dixon, the commercial director, has been asked to stay on at the company, but is thought to have ex-

pressed a wish to leave. However, Northern's board will not disappear empty-handed. Executive directors, who were on two-year rolling contracts, are likely to receive pay-offs totalling more than £2m.

Mr Morris, who earned total pay last year of £296,000, including pension contributions. could see a pay-off of some £600,000. In addition, Mr Morris will make £39,635 from share options. Tony Hadfield, chief executive, earned £374,000 last year and could receive a pay-off of more than £600,000.

Unions want to meet with Mr Sokol to clarify the future for the company's 3,6(0) staff.

BZW has asked us to point out that fees of £1.5m and £250,000 in connection with its defence of Northern Electric were agreed in writing by Northern on 27 November, BZW said it found the suggestion in The Independent on 24 December that it had tast week "asked for" the £250,000 to be paid "very mis-leading" and wanted to make this

### Sunderland scores on trading debut

**Patrick Tooher** 

COUR

line allow

Investors in Sunderland football club received an early Christmas present on Tuesday when shares in the Premier League club made a stunning stock market

The shares, offered to investors at 585p, closed at 732.5p, valuing the elub at almost £60m. The substantial premium means fans who subscribed for the minimum application of 100 shares are already sitting on a paper profit of £147.50.

The success of the flotation was virtually guaranteed last week when Suoderland revealed that the public tranche was 2.7 times oversubscribed.

Strong demand for Sunderland's shares also underlines the stock market's hungry appetite for all things football as a growing band of clubs line up for a stock market listing to improve ty company. In a statement istheir financial clout both on and off the field.

that success on the pitch is oot adding that it appreciated Sin a prerequisite for a good per- David's offer of "assistance". doo stock market this year, yet more than tenfold to £3.5m to satisfy all the top clubs.

the team has struggled to put three passes together all season. Sunderland have spent most of the season flirting with relegation and last Saturday were trounced 5-0 at Manchester

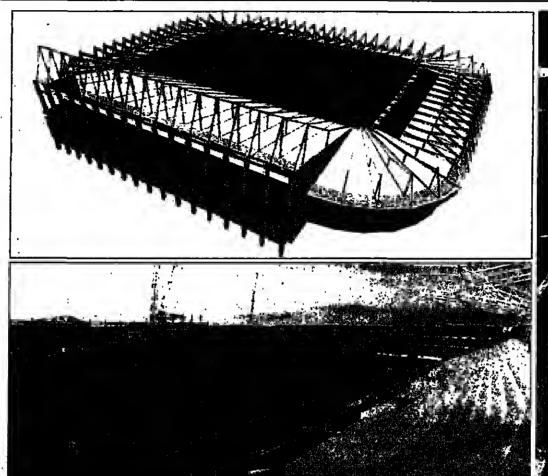
United - the biggest defeat in Peter Reid's managerial career at Roker Park. Newcastle, West Bromwich Albion, Birmingham City, South-ampton and Sheffield United are set to go public in the new year. Investors are attracted by the prospect of substantially enhanced televisioo income from

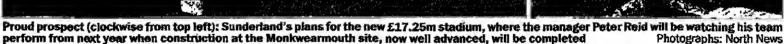
the screening of live matches on

a pay-per-view basis.

Meanwhile, it emerged over the Christmas boliday that Southamptoo has rebuffed an offer from a consortium led by Sir David Frost to take a stake in the club, insisting that it would proceed with its plan to reverse into Secure Retirement, a listed healthcare and propersued oo Tuesday, the company said it was bound by its agree-It also provides further proof ment with Secure Retirement,

for example, have been among season, are expecting televisioo the 20 biggest risers on the Lon- and media income to increase





this season, helped by a deal Analysts believe there is 'mura. enough money sloshing around

formance on the stock market. Sunderland, promoted from signed last summer between point," said Nick Knight, of still going to have access to so Shares in Tottenham Hotspur, Divisioo One as champions last the Premier League and BSkyB. Japanese investment bank No-chunky televisioo revenue." "Sunderland and Southamptoo are relatively ty market in part to meet the said the new ground was already acres of leasehold interest in a small clubs compared with New-

"We are not at saturation castle and Man Utd but they are scheduled to be completed ocxt which assumed the stadium still going to have access to some Sunderland tapped the equicosts of building its new stadium.

Burnfield share at 165p, a 65 per

cent premium over the share price on 16 December, just be-

fore the hostile offer was an-

oounced. The shares closed oo

year. It will seat 42,000, and is being huilt at a cost of £17.25m. the 12 acres of freehold land on But an independent valuation which it is situated and the eight

Photographs: North News

#### BR prefers US firm as freight bidder

**Mathew Horsman** 

Wisconsin Ceotral, the US rail corporation, has emerged as the preferted hidder for Railfreight Distribution, the Channel Tunnel international freight oper-

ation being sold by British Rail. The US group has already bought some BR companies, including Rail Express, the mail-by-rail system, and three trainload freight companies, which dominate the domestic

rail freight business in the UK. The announcement, which came out just before the Christmas break, may have beeo timed to avoid attention. Previous privatisations have attracted widespread criticism, particularly in cases where assets were heing sold to foreign

companies. Wisconsin's British operating company, English Welsh and Scottish Railway, is backed by financial institutions including US investment company Berkshire Partners, and was formed to buy Rail Express, the carriers of the Royal Mail, in De-

cember 1995. By buying Railfreight Distrihutioo (RfD), EWS would bring together operations that the Government had intended to sell separately. The sale of the three trainload freight companies to EWS early this year attracted criticism from the Opposition. The move exposed the "fiction of rail competition."

a Labour spokesman said. The heavily subsidised RfD. which links Britain to continental Europe through the Channel Tunnel, had losses of £58.6m in 1995/96 and is not expected to turn a profit for several years. BR has written off debt of £300m and made additional provisions of £200m against future liabilities, largely the cost of paying Eurotun-nel, the Channel Tonoel operatiog company, for access. RfD operates freight ser-vices to Italy, France, Spain and

Germany, and runs about 160 trains a week. The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to

complete the sale by early 1997.

# for BBC pay service

Mathew Horsman Media Editor

BSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster, is continuing to press for an equity stake in the oew BBC-Flextech pay-TV channels, in return for carrying the services oo its satellite system, the Independent has learned. Negotiations to secure satel-

lite carriage for up to eight pay-TV channels are set to resume in the oew year, with BSkyB's chief executive, Sam Chisholm, determined to take up to 30 per cent in the venture. To date, both the BBC and Flextech, the US-controlled pay-TV packager, have resisted BSkyB's offer of an equity investment, preferring to reach a carriageonly agreement with the UK's leading pay broadcaster.

The new channels are to cost £140m over four years to develop, with Flextech carrying the financial burdeo. The BBC

would supply programming.

The drawn-out negotiations have had the effect of delaying parallel talks between BSkyB is also eager to reach a carriage owned by Pearson, United



Determined: Sam Chisholm wants stake of np to 30%

agreement for satellite distribution. Channel 5 is keen to supplement its oear-oatiooal coverage of about 80 per cent, which will be reached using a terrestrial signal, with side car-riage agreements on both satel-lite and cable systems.

"Until BSkyB has decided what it is going to do about [BBC-Flextech], they are not able to assign transponder space to us," said David Elstein. chief executive of Channel 5 and the new Channel 5, which Broadcasting. Channel 5,

News & Media and Luxem-bourg-based CLT is also looking into securing a transponder on its own, using Pearsoo's close ties with Astra, the satellite company. Pearsoo has 6.5

per cent of Astra. Mr Elstein said the company had not yet decided whether to offer the oew channel to all satellite subscribers in the UK (through the so-called "soft encryption" option) or only to those who have smart cards.

BSkyB has 4 million subscribers in the UK, who use a smart card to watch 40 pay-TV channels. Another 300,000 households have satellite dishes and decoders, but have not paid subscription fees for smartcard services and so do not re-

ceive any Sky programming. The Flextech-BBC deal, announced late this year, is part of the BBC's plans to take the public service broadcaster into the digital age. In addition to the new channels, the BBC plans to make its core services, BBC1 and BBC2, available on all available digital platforms, supplemented by a 24-hour news channel, an educational chanoel and other viewer services.

## BSkyB revives pitch | Fairey boosts offer for Burnfield

**Mathew Horsman** 

Fairey Group, the electronics and engineering manufacturing specialist, has made an "in-creased and final offer" for Burnfield which values the measuring equipment company at

on Christmas Eve, is in the form of 25 new Fairey shares for each 92 Burnfield shares, and represents an 11 per ceot increase.

In additioo, shareholders would get dividends from both Fairey and from Burnfield,

oew Paircy share for each four Burnfield shares held. The hid is still conditional oo Burnfield oot proceeding with the proposed £24m acquisitioo of Ling Dynamic Systems, the privately owned vibratioo

Tuesday at 142p.

raising £20.3m.

Fairey is keen to develop its industrial electronics husinesses and repeated its elaims that two companies could be profitably combined.

The higher offer, which came The original offer had been The Burntield companies after the Stock Exchange closed for £51m, in the form of ooe are a good fit with two of Fairey's process technology businesses, LaserMike and Particle Measuring Systems," John Poulter, Fairey's chief executive

> The hostile bid has sparked a war of words between the two

which had forecast a pay-out of 2.2p per share. Including the dividends, the offer values each sue at 90p a share, aimed at companies, with Fairey savaging Burnfield's acquisition record and the target company criticising Fairey's record on creating shareholder value.

Burnfield recently sold its

four temperature and pressure businesses for a loss of £12m. The initial bid from Fairey was rejected as far too low and

opportunistic by Burnfield, which called on shareholders to support plans by management to complete the LDS acquisition. Shareholders will vote on the LDS deal, as well as the rights issue, at a special meeting on 30 December.

### Dispute over liability resumes

**fill Treanor Banking Correspondent** 

Corporate financiers are poised

to resume oegotiations in their long-running dispute with accountants over who should he liable when mergers and acquisitions go wroog.

The two sides have been ar-

guing about the small print in documentation produced during corporate deals, with accountants attempting to get "limited liability" clauses inserted to restrict the size of

claims against them in the event of subsequent trouble. But this has posed problems for investment bankers, who fear that

blame could shift to them. The issue would be dehated again in the oew year, sources at the Big Six accountancy firms and at the London investment Bankers Association said. The LIBA said it was concerned that advisers would be unable to do their jobs properly unless the

Banks and accountants accepted a moratorium, under

which accountants agreed not to put their limited liability elauses in public documents provided the bank involved was

a member of the LIBA. ning for a year and LIBA will meet with the accountants to discuss ways to make progress Kit Farrow of the LIBA said: "I see the cootinuation of the moratorium as desirable."

But he insisted that "the long-term solution is a reform of the law of joint and severance

#### IN BRIEF

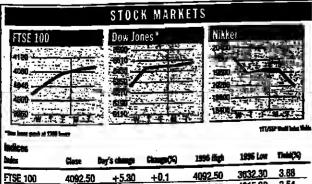
 International CableTel, the US-owned UK cable operator, has threatened to sue rival operator, Montreal-based Videotron, for CS84m, citing a hreach of an agreement giving CahleTel exclusive rights to negotiate a purchase of Videotron's UK holdings if they were ever sold. Videotron's controlling stake to Videotron UK was sold earlier th. year to Bell Cablemedia, as part of a four-way merger giving hirth to Cable & Wireless Communica-tioos. C&W groups Videotron, Bell Cablemedia, Nynex CableComms and Mercury.

 The next meeting of finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G7) iodustrial nations was likely to be held in late January or in February, probably in Berlin, a senior finance source told Reuters. In the past several years, G7 ministers and central bankers have met a few times a year.

 The union representing workers at Lloyds-TSB said a half-day strike on Christmas Eve, to protest the bank's extended opening hours, had been a success, with thousands of members walking out. The bank had looked to provide full banking services even during the afternoon of 24 December, and called in managers to man stations following the walk out. Ed Sweeney, the general secretary of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union, said: "There's still no evidence to support the bank's case that customers want a full banking service oo the afternoon of Christmas Eve."

· Scottish house prices are at their highest level since August 1995, and are rising on an annual basis for the first time in 15 mooths, according to the October Scottish Housing lodex. Produced by the Royal Bank of Scotland and Scottish Homes, the national housing agency, the iodex also shows that the volume of sales has risen for four consecutive months, although sales remain lower than a year ago. Not counting council house sales, sales were marginally higher than in October 1995.

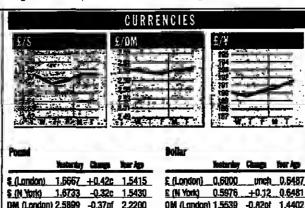
 China Eastern Airlines would seek a share listing in New York and Hong Kong simultaneously at the beginning of 1997, the Xin-hua ocws agency said on Wednesday. China Eastern would be the first Chinese carrier to issue shares overseas. Xiohua did oot say if the airline had received listing approval from the Hong Kong and New York stock exchanges. China Southern Airlines would follow suit, Xinhua quoted an official of the Civil Aviation Administration of China as saying.



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SPORTS QUOTES OF 1996: Mum has the last word in a year of sage sayings and verbal vigour. Compiled by Rob McLean

# Why didn't you just belt it?

Barbara Southgate to her son Gareth after his penalty miss against Germany in Euro 96

swich. I hit the post and we went down that year. But I think I'd be far more comfortable now than I was then. Gareth Southgate, England defender, tempts fate before the semi-final.

No matter how much the other players try to console me, I'm still left with the feeling that I let everybody down. Southgate. If you cut me open and had a look inside right now it couldn't be a pretty sight. I doo't know if I can sink any lower. Gary McAllister Scotland captain, on his crucial penalty miss against England.

It's Bavarian state law that beer isn't alcohol. It's a means of nutrition. Jürgen Klinsmann at the height of the "boozy England" furore.

He's a nice man with a nice family so it will make it difficult to kick him. Tony Adams on Arsenal team-mate Dennis Bergkamp before the England v Netherlands game.

Before the competition, everyone was laughing about England and their style. They will not be laughing oow. Bergkamp after his side's 4-1 defeat to England. Not only the cows are mad in England. The English press is also infected. El Mundo Deportivo newspaper, after Spain-bashing stories before the quarter-final.

Why are the English the only people in the world who still elaim the ball crossed the line in the 1966 final? Bild, German paper, during the jingoistic press build-up to the semi-final. I didn't see the ball. It's not my problem whether it crossed the line. If it did I would remind you: this is how England won the 1966 World Cup. Bohby Mikhailov, Bulgaria's goalkeeper, after television replays howed that Romania had been

A goalkeeper is a goalkeeper because he can't play foothall. Raud Gullit, BBC pundit, after the antics of Russia's Stanislav Cherchesov gifted Italy a goal. You don't have to have been a horse to be a jockey. Arrigo Sacchi, coach of Italy, defends his limited playing career, before Euro 96

There are two possibilities from this tournameot. Either I shall be kissed all over my hald head or I will have tomatoes thrown at it. Sacchi, after Italy failed to make the quarter-finals.

Being an ex-England manager, one that failed to qualify for the The way Christie behaved was World Cup, is like being a dead politiciao, Graham Taylor. The greatest manager of all started twice I'd have just left. time. Kevin Keegan on the late

Ato Boldon, Trinidad's hrouze

Boh Paisley. Shanks built the team and Bob carried it on. People say it was easy to take over the reins. Look at what happeoed to Souness. He took over the reins and the horses ran wild. Stan Boardman, scouse comedian.

winning ought to dic. Jesus Gil y Gil, the ever quotable president of Atletico Madrid.

This is the signing for the peo-ple of Newcastle. Kevin Keegan spends £15m on Alan Shearer. I'll always be a sheet metal worker's son from Newcastle. Alan Shearer introduces himself to the Geordic hordes. A waste of money, Gullit, Chelsea manager, on the Shear-

I am not Asprilla the cruzy man. I am just like a little haby at heart. Faustino Asprilla, Newcastle's Colombian striker who joined the club for £7.5m. They've nicknamed me Ena

I've only taken one penalty before, for Crystal Palace at Ipnever oot of the net. Ian Thain, never oot of the net. Ian Thain, Keith goalkeeper, after letting in 10 goals against Rangers in the Scottish Cup.

I think having Wasps around here gives us that little buzz around the place. Ray Wilkins, then QPR manager, on the Lof-tus Road ground-share.

There's nobody fitter at his age, except maybe Raquel Welch. Ron Atkinson on Gor-

It might be enough for the homeless but oot for a top in-ternational striker. Pierre Van Hooydonk, Celtic's Dutch international striker, rejects the club's reported salary offer of

Sometimes I would have to go next door to get fed. I have seen people starving, and I know that side of life. Dwight Yorke, Aston Villa striker, on his child-hood in Trinidad and Tobago. We are skint. We are desperate for mooey, we have no spoosorship and we are selling the gear to have a night out. There is nothing wrong with that af-ter four years' hard training. Tony Ali and Robert Morgan, two of Britain's Olympic divers, justify selling their team kit on the streets of Atlanta.

The British public only care every four years and then they wooder why we can't produce the goods. Swimmer Paul Palmer, Britain's first medal winner in Atlanta, rues the lack of cash for British sport. We are drowning out there and we have become a laughing stock. David Wilkie, Britain's former 200m gold medallist, on the British swimming team's performance in Atlanta.

All I do is eat, sleep, and traio six hours a day, six days a week. tiple Olympic gold swimming innuendo about her dramatic

If anyone sees me go oear a boat again, they have got my permission to shoot me. Steven Redgrave, British rower, after winning his fourth Olympic gold, in the coxless pairs. I think the oldest rower to win a gold medal was 42. So I might

have another couple of Olympics in me. Redgrave changes his mind. Life is a hitch, but that is it for me. I'll he 40 io the next Olympics. Linford Christie after his false-start disqualification in the 100 metres final. disrespectful. It affected my race absolutely. If I'd false-

medallist. Whee you are in a race with Michael Johnson, there are two races going on. One with him and the other with the rest. Roger Black, Britain's silver medallist in the 400m.

I'm very consistent. I try to hit Whoever doesn't like Atletico everybody. Charles Barkley, forward with the United States basketball team.

It was heart attack time for me. A split second later and a guy wearing all the wrong clothes would have dashed out there and become the most famous production assistant in history. Don Mischer, Olympic opening ceremony producer, after Muhammad Ali nearly failed to light the Olympic flame.

Any suspicious person not stop-ping at a security check will be shot, A Pakistani cricket official on crowd control methods in the

British lion; weak in the paw. long in the tail. England walked



to the gallows like criminals rather than martyrs. *Indian Express*, after England's World Cup defeat by New Zealand. We couldn't beat a team of Eskimos. Ian Botham on Eng-

land's World Cup. Will someooc remove this huf-foon? Mike Atherton, England captain, to Pakistani journalist. He had a pizza last night. Now it's on the field out there. Ray Illingworth, chairman of selec-tors, after Neil Smith was sick during a World Cup match against the UAE.

I don't particularly care if a guy is green, yellow with pink spots and comes from Mars. If I'm show to roll a joint, but that's small, soooker player, after

playing sport against him. Botham, accused of being a racist by Imran Khan.

Imran and I are not on talking terms. Yes, I once said he should be stoned to death, but I think in this case he was in the Mark Roe, golfer, on the high-right. Sarfraz Nawaz on Imran altitude setting for the Madeira Botham and Lamb.

son, Liam, who was making his first-class debut for Hamp-

playing sport against him. I'm about all. Ian Chapple on the losing to Karl Broughton in playing sport against him. prospect of Botham joining the the International Open. England management.

This bas to be one of the finest courses Chris Boningtoo ever built. The PGA are providing oxygeo oo the first and 10 tees.

lan never got me out in 15 years This will help me in terms of but his boy gets me out in seven halls. Mike Gatting after being dismissed by Botham's becoming the first qualifier to win golf's German Open. He bored me to tears. He weot

going to have unprotected sex on the basketball court. Rony Seikaly, Golden State centre. showing no anxiety about facing Magic Johnson after his re-

turn to basketball. Unless people see me on the ski slope, they think I'm an accident-prone berk. Eddie Edwards makes another comeback. I have the body of a man half my age. Unfortunately, he's in terrible shape. George Foreman, n sprightly 48.

NBA players are smart enough

to know yoo get the virus from

unprotected sex, and we're not

### 'The charisma of a jellyfish'

THE BAD. THE MAD - AND GAZZA

life at Rangers. Gazza is not longer a fat, drunken imbecile... he is in fact a football genius. Daily Mirror edaded 'Mr Paul Gascoigne: An Apology", after his Euro 96 goal against Scotland. I'm a disgrace. Gascoigne, who beat up his wife and was sent off playing for Rangers against Aiax in the same week.

Gascoigne has created a mouster for himself. Desmond Naked Ape' Morris, haman be-

havious expert.
I looked in the mirror and I didn't like what I saw. Tony Adams, of Arsenal and England, confesses to being an alcoholic. It took a lot of bottle for Tony

to own up. Ian Wright. You walk along the street and people say you're a coward, that you missed penalties, that you're at, even that you're a junkie. Nobody has the right to make my daughters cry. Diego Maradona. I have not ruled out the fear that Diego could suddenly die on a football pitch or walking down the street. Ricardo Grimson, a doctor treating Maradona for cocaine abuse.

We don't need people like Vinnie Jones, who is just a selfhyped personality. He isn't a good player and is of no bene-fit to the game. Gary Lineker, former England captain, and BBC sports presenter.

Jones fights back.

Lineker has the charisma of a jellyfish - and he is just as wet. He is a jellyfish without a sting.

You know if everything is going well, you get drunk for a couple of days. Pani Gascoigne on the stupid thing. But what I have sort of waiting to do the next stupid thing. But what I bave learned is not to make the same mistake twice. Eric Cantona on his kung-fu kick and the community service sentence it earned him.

You know Dennis Wise. He could start a fight in an empty house. Alex Ferguson. I know where he should have put his flag up, and he'd have got plenty of help. Ron Atkinson on an errant linesman. The referee was booking everyone. I thought he was filling in

his lottery numbers. Ian Wright. It is a very sad day for English football. Players get stick all the time from the fans, but it seems you cannot have a go back. Mark Bosnich, Aston VIIla goalkeeper, on als Nazi salute to Tottenham fans. He doesn't know aoything. Every time I see him I feel sick.

Brad Gilbert, Andre Agassi's

coach, on Ronnie Leitgib, Thomas Muster's coach. His comments probably come from eating too many ham-burgers with English meat. Muster on Agassi, who accused the Austrian of paranoia. You short-brained or what?

We go to Eurosport after the match and we check out the replay, if I am right, you'll never be op oo the chair again. Michael Stich, former Wimbledon champion, to umpire Richard Kaufman.

We are more important than the Catholic Church. Juan Antonio Samaranch, IOC life president, loses the plot completely.

### 'There is peace in our time'

RUGBY RUCKS AND CIVIL WAR

like the Five Nations over the telephone. Bill Bishop, outgo-ing Rugby Football Union president, after England had been thrown out by the other home unions over the TV deal

with Sky. Democracy no longer prevails within the RFU. The television occotiators have taken a quick fix Chil Brittle, RFU chairman, on the Sky deal.

Most players are fed up with the whole thing. Will Carling, former England captain, on the constant wrangling between the RFU and its top clubs. English rugby was haemor-rhaging. Reality dawned oo everybody. People wanted to know why we were tearing each other apart. Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, as rogby union's

civil war was resolved. There is peace in our time. Col-in Herridge, RFU treasurer. There are many evils in the world and two of the worst are mooey and greed. Everything is now geared towards winning. Yoo didn't see the professional fouls in the past and you do

now, and the game's social side

'I try to keep my bra on'

McBride, former Lions captain,

on the modern game.
I'm 48, an ageing dinosaur. My
perspective is moulded by my
age. But I hate everything that's
happened. Friendship and loyalty have been smashed. Andy
Ripley, former England No 8, on
the turnoil in British rugby. the turnoil in British rugby.

Being dropped and Take That splitting up on the same day is eoough to finish anyone off. Martin Bayfield keeps his sense of humour after being left out of the England union team to

face Scotland.

We've got to have a few thugs. Scott Gibb, Welsh RU international, calls for more RL internationals to be brought back. The League could not pro-mote blanket sales in Alaska. Ken Arthurson, Australian Rugby League chairman, dismisses proposals by the British Rugby League to run Super

If Rupert Murdoch told you to go down to Central Park tomorrow and expose yourself, you would. Caller to Rugby League chief executive Maurice Lindsay on C4's Nightsports.

### oughton prepa shine in Austr

### 'He looks terrified'

#### CHOKES OF THE YEAR

It's not the end of the world. I screwed up hut I'm oot a loser. I've got 40 million bucks. Greg Bruno on Tyson after losing. Norman, after his defeat by Nick Faldo in the Masters. when he blew a six-shot lead on the final day.
They just sat and watched,

which was kind of ceric for a golf tournament. Faido on the final-I played like shit, that's what

happened. Norman, after being I am just looking forward to exasked by a reporter what hap-

In that momeot Nick went up in my estimation. We both had tears in our eyes. It was some- There's no cootest. It's a comthing very special. Norman on Faldo at the death.

It's amazing how many people beat you at golf when you're no longer president. George Bush.
He looks terrified. I've oever training for this fight my sparseen a champion look less like a champion. New York boxing up. It was discouraging but I writer as Frank Bruno climbed prayed and I got through it. I into the ring before his world

It hurts when people get the idea that I'm some kind of pantomime freak. Bruno. The last time Bruoo fought Tyson I had a het on Frank. But I also had a bet on Elvis Presley sitting at ringside. John H Stracey, former world welterweight champion.

pressing a lot of pain. Mike Tyson before his world heavyweight title fight against Evander Holyfield.

plete and total mismatch. Micky Duff, promoter, predicts Holyfield's destruction by

prayed and I got through it. I was going to be prepared. Holy-field, after beating Tyson. title defence to Mike Tyson. field, after beating Tyson. Lara after West Indies. He wasn't as good as 1989 hut I have the greatest respect for Cup defeat to Kenya.

you. I just want to shake your hand. Tyson to Holyfield. I can't remember a thing after the third round. Tyson.

l get paid far too much money to think about quitting boxing. I get \$30m for stepping into the ring. Tyson, after his defeat. Everrone has talked about our collapse but that doesn't do justice to what Manchester United achieved. Kevin Keegan, Newcastle manager, after his side collapsed during the title run-in. All I can do is apologise to all my fans. I feel really sorry for them. Andre Agassi, after going out in the first round to Doug

Flach at Wimbledon. My only desire oow is to get drunk. I've lost all my skills as a player. Alexander Volkov, tennis player, in defeat. If you have a good team but a had maoagement, you can

maybe get along. But if you have

a bad team and a bad manage-ment you get f\*\*\*\*\*. Brian Lara after West Indies' World

was the weakest' HILL AND HENMAN

'Hill showed he

got a lump in my throat. Forgive us in Australia, New Zealaod. we feel emotional, because that's our boy, Murray Walker, cision to put Tim Henman, Britain's No 1, on an outside tor. celebrates Hill's success. Hill elearly showed he was the weakest because with the best car it took him so long to become world champion, Nikki Lauda, former world

champioo. Please doo't think I hate Damon. If I wasn't a racing driver we could have been friends. He has his days, like a woman ber periods. Michael Schumacher. Maybe he doesn't like Schumachers. Michael's brother Ralf, on Hill's decision not to ioin him at Jordan.

Right now I feel like I'm on a I'm not coocerned about being rocket that's about to take off. British No J. I'm interested Damon Hill, after heing in improving my world ranking. crowned Formula One world That's what matters. Henman. It could only happeo in Britain. I've got to stop now because I've At the French Open last week they even allowed Yannick Noah to sing a song on Ceotre Court. David Lloyd, British

> court at Queen's. The Royal Box was practically empty. You have to ask where their priorities lie. Obviously, you cannot interrupt the great British hmch. Buster Mottram, former British No 1, after Henman had played his

Martin to a half-empty Centre Wheo I look at all the attention Tve received this year, God only knows what it would be like Mangham, striker with Argyll if I ever won Wimhledoo. Bombers five a side team, Stock-

quarter-final against Todd

#### WOMEN ON THE EDGE

We are broke. Everything is gone. Diane Modahl, British athlete, on the high price of trying to clear her name of drugs

Women compete better after an orgasm, especially high jumpers and runners. Israeli scientist Alexander Olshanietzky, urging his nation's athletes to have sex at the Olympics.

I try to keep my bra on at all times. Georgie Hill, Damon's wife, explains how she avoids being a "distraction" after rumours that Jean Alesi's girlfriend had been banned from

You look very nice this evening, Sue. But don't take that as a if this is business, I don't like compliment. I'm visually impaired. Simon Jackson, Paralympic judo gold medallist, to Sue Barker during the BBC's Sports Review of the Year.

Our last referee only had one eye. We played on his blind side. Mary ton-on-Tees, average age 82.

The worst thing about playing for Great Britain is the sleeve-mer world No 1, who thought less shirts. It means you have to shave your armpits before every

game. Karen Brown, hockey in-

I caught with a good right to the jaw and lots of body shots. Lloyd Honeyghan, former world welterweight champion, after attempting to stop three girls shoplifting.

Ms Ferguson is a friend of mine But there is nothing else

ternational.

mine. But there is nothing else. Thomas Muster, tennis world No 3, on remours of a remance with the Duchess of It's very hard on our family, and

business. Steffi Graf, world ten-nis No 1, on her father's problems with tax evasion. If you read the papers, you'd

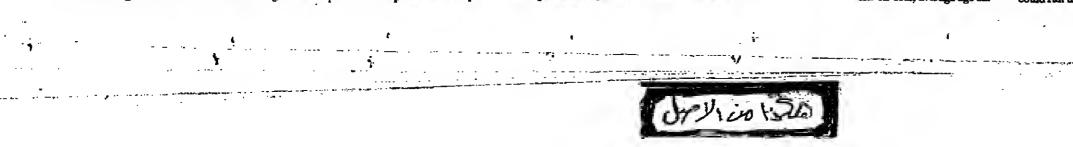
think she belongs in hospital. The injuries are just ao excuse ahead of time in case she needs it. If you look at her today, she's mer world No 1, who thought Graf was faking injury prob-

Martina is lucky she doesn't have to live with these injuries. She should know better than to say these things after all the time we've known each other. Graf.

With all of the comments some of you have made that I'm not strong enough or mentally tough enough at the end, I proved - not only today but in the past - that's not the case. Jana Novotna, renowned for "choking", replies to her critics after beating Monica Seles in the Olympic tennis quarter-

Once I even bought a hlonde wig so as not to be recognised. Gahriela Sahatini, on her retirement from women's

Out there it's every man for himself. Alex Greaves, who berunning like a gazelle. She came the first won could run the Olympic 400 mecame the first woman to com-



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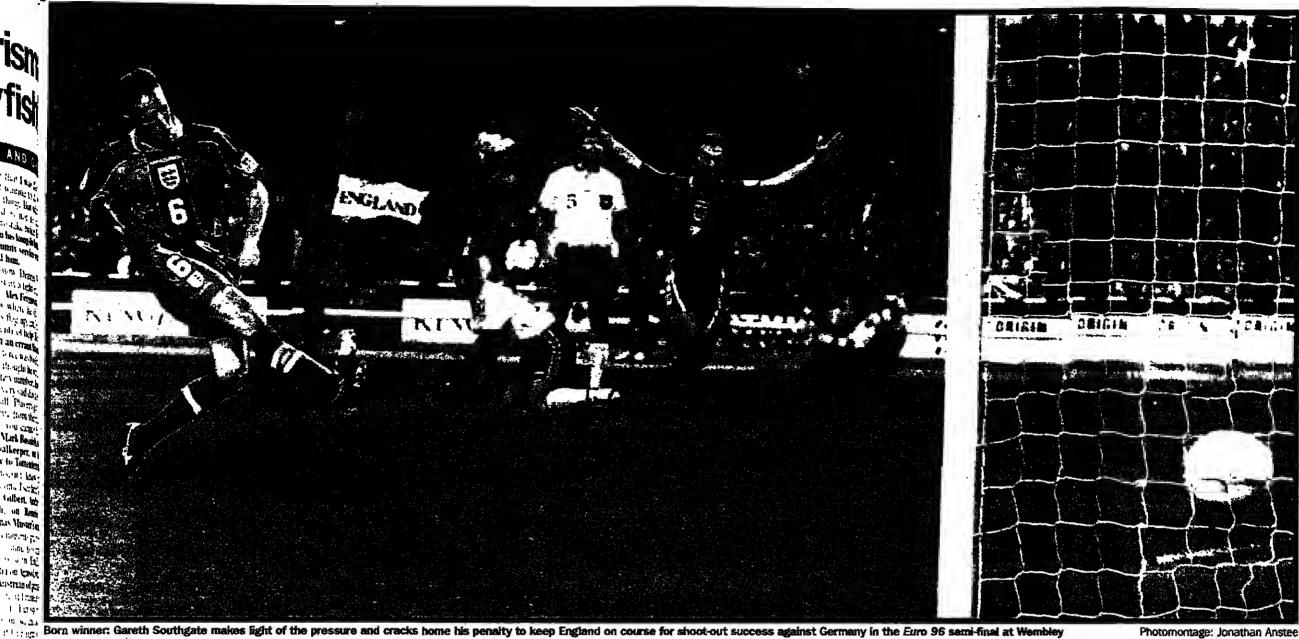
Victoria Contr in Americaliza

water than the last

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## ...and what if he had done?



Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

#### M. Bari Not to you

**Gareth Southgate** had scored from that penalty?

was the devil-may-care attitude ped which did it, that casua duminal, that even before the semi-final, possibility, it had not even crossed dispenalties. When someooe pointed out that the only previous penalty he had taken – and missed – had cost Crystal Palace a place in the Premicrship, the legend was complete.

From a player of such limited experience, the kick was a revelation. It was struck with astonishing force, and Andreas Köpke was rooted to his line as the ball whistled past his head at such speed that the German keeper would be admitted to hospital shortly afterwards with seconddegree burns to his left ear. Thirty his kick into the second-oer hurger concession and Southgate was borne away down the tunnel on the shoul-

ders of his team-mates. with a lispy grammar-school accent, Southgate was suddenly a national hero. Garra-mania took hold. That very night, printing presses around the country whirred into action. Within 48 hours, no adolescent bedroom wall was complete without its

Britain's media duly got behind its boys as Final day approached, even if the citizens of the Czech Republic proved a little more resistant to stereotyping than the Germans. By Saturday morning, the Mirror was getting desperate. "You Havel got to he joking", ooe headline read. Egghead Czechs have a playwright

as president!". Yet how prescient it proved to be in the first half of the final. The Czech's football oozed intelligence and culture, and Patrik Berger's hat-trick barely reflected their superiority. The moment had arrived

when we got to the dressing-room," Teddy Sheringham recalled later. "He just switched on the telly. Alan Hansen was laughing so much he couldn't even interrupt Jimmy Hill. After that, we couldn't wait to get stuck in."

Venables' ruse worked perfectly on all but Stuart Pearce, the only England player who was already fully motivated, and who suffered a severe emotional overload as a result. Fortunately, Pearce's subsequent attempt to impale Karel Poborsky with a spare corner flag took place No longer the gawky defender in the tunnel, and the ugly scenes as a dozen security guards attempted to restrain the Forest full-back thus

went unrecorded by photographers. Knocked out by an elephantine dose from the tranquilliser dart which on the pitch. Alan Shearer's injury earbeen compounded when the zi, on Robbie Fowler's tracksuit top jammed, and the striker was sidelined while the St John's Ambulance tried to cut him free.

While they struggled, however, Southgate was pushed into emergency service up froot, to immediate and astounding effect. Confidence boosted by the 35-yard screamer which removed the keeper's front teeth on its way into the net, Southgare then lobbed him from five yards inside his own half less than five minutes later. When England won a freefor one of Terry Venables' manage-rial masterstrokes.

"The gur'nor didn't say a word away from the ball before calmiy caning his shot into the top corper for

a 10-minute hat-trick. Who can say how different things might have been if Fowler had not finally been released from his tracksuit? Southgate returned to a defensive role, and from then on, fighting spirit alone could not break down the gritty Czech defence. Once again, the shoot-ont heckoned.

At 5-4 down, the palms of English hands were getting a little sweaty, until the slim but reliable form of Southgate stepped up to the spot. Matthews, Finney, Moore, Charlton, Southgate – his name was surely inked in already on England's roll of honour. Throughout the length and hreadth of Soho,

ly in the second half seemed to have score like Gareth") to coodoms. There were those among the press

of what my mum said to me after the Germany game," he explained later. "Gareth, she said, why the hell did you hlast it? Think what a prat you'd have looked if it had gone over the bar. Didn't Waddle and Pearce teach you anything? Mark my words. Next time, try a hopeless, limp-ankled poke to the goalie's right. He won't be expecting that." The rest, of course, is history...

Zimbabwe had faced some serious opposition this winter?

t's just so frustrating," David Lloyd said, shortly after the letter dropped on to his doormat. "We're really not as bad as people think." The communique was from the Zimhabwean cricket authorioes. "We're very sorry," it read, "but tickets for the Test matches just aren't selling. People want the whiff of competition, the possibility that we might actually lose. So we've invit-

ed the Netherlands instead."

corps who complained that the So what went through his mind at that crucial moment? "I thought cricket's top division, but that, of course, was nothing but sour grapes, a result of the unexpected cancellation of their winter in sub-equatorial Africa.

And so it was that Mike Atherton and company found themselves clambering out of a Hercules transport on to the tarmae of Port Stanley airport. They could be forgiven for looking a little bemused, not least upon discovering that the very same runway would form the wicket for their opening match, against the Baggage Handlers XI. In the circumstances, their 152-run defeat was hardly a disgrace. "It was

the wrong kind of tarmac," Lloyd insisted. "We're really not as bad as people think." A similar excuse — "the wrong kind of shingle"—was advanced following the 10-wicket mauling at the callowed hands of the ing at the calloused hands of the South Georgia Beachcombers Sec-ood XI. By the third day of the first Test, however, it was wearing a little thin. "They are," the coach declared, "the wroog kind of sheep."

It was fortunate indeed for the tourists that their visit coincided with the shearing season. Their opponents were forced to concede the match shortly before lunch on day four, but the spanking new pullovers each member of the England party re-ceived were by now of little conso-

momeot of self-discovery was at

England were trailing by 190 runs with a single wicket in hand as the rig started to disintegrate into the south Atlantic, "Oh God," the coach exclaimed as the icy water lapped around his neck. "We really are as bad as people think."

Tim Henman had won Wimbledon?

ronie, isn't it?" Tim Henman said last week. "At the time, it scemed like the greatest momeot of my life. Now, six months on, I can see that winning Wimbledon was the worst thing that ever happened

It seems like much more than six mooths since that blistering backhand cross-court pass left Richard Krajieck belly up, and Henman as the first British winner of the men's singles since Fred Perry. Little did he realise how that legacy would come to haunt him.

The Champions' Ball was the where it all started to go wrong. Hen-man and Steffi Graf made an at-tractive couple as the band struck up the first dance, and the women's champion was muttering more than sweet nothings into the young Briton's ear. I was a bit taken dose from the tranquilliser dart which eventually brought him down, Pearce was oblivious to the drama unfolding on the pitch. Alan Shearer's injury ear-on the pitch and solution of the drama unfolding on the pitch. Alan Shearer's injury ear-on the pitch and the tranquilliser dart which young men with pony-tails devised she with pony-tails devised eventually hought him down, Pearce with taken she are in the color of the enormous ability of English cricket's administration to the eno

wanting to give me some serious attention. Then I realised she meant my accounts, and she was giving me her dad's phone oumber

An attempt to emulate the success of the Fred Perry clothing range seemed a logical departure, and on the recommendation of his newly appointed financial advisor, official Henman shirts were manufactured in Ulan Bator, prior to import into Britain via Afghanistan, the Cayman Islands, Colombia and a yacht out of

Io hindsight, the problem was obvious - the range was designed to re fleet the man himself. Shy and understated at the very time when brashness was back on the catwalks of Paris and Milan, the Henman collection took up such stubborn resi-dence on high-street shelves that several stores started charging rent. As Henman's bank balance suffered, so too did his form, and within a few short weeks, the only figure larger than his overdraft was his world ranking.

Then, just when it seemed that things could not get worse, HM Cus-toms intercepted the latest consign-ment of "clothing", 150 miles off Penzance. "For olvious reasons, I simply can't comment," Henman said. "And anyway, visiting time is over."

Emerson's wife had

#### **Broughton prepares** to shine in Australia

STUART ALEXANDER

front of international yacht racing begins in Australia tomorrow when a crew skip-pered by helicopter pilot Mick-Broughton contests the Melbourne to Hobart Race. Broughton and his crew of seven, mainly from the Britannia Naval College at Dartmouth and including ooe female sub-

bie, have chartered a 36-foot Swarbrick-designed yacht for a series of races which has already seen them noteh up wins in two inshore series and a performance handicap series. In the longer term they have their sights set on being part of a British three-boat team to con-

a major sponsorship package early in the New Year. probably the youngest team in Chatham Islands. the race and now we have been installed as favourites," he said. France's Christophe Augin

Vendee Glohe singlehanded non-stop round the world race over the Canadian Gerry Roufs. He is also about 10 days ahead A year-long campaign to put the Royal Navy back at the foredays set by Titouan Lamazou in 1989/90.

Britain's Pete Goss has moved into seventh place as Yves Parlier has arrived in Freemantie, Australia to replace a smashed rudder and so disqualify himself for receiving outside assistance. Goss has the only 50-foot boat in the race, all the rest are 60 feet, but as gear damage has taken its toll and reduced the fleet from 14 to 10 so he is able to hope for a top six place at the finish early in February at Les Sables d'Olonne.

All 14 BT Challenge yachts are still in the west with Mike Golding (Group 4) expected to complete the second, 6,600-mile leg from Rio de Janeiro to test the Southern Cross series Wellingtoo on Sunday. Forty in Sydney oext December and miles astern is Andy Hindley their manager, Tony Higham, is (Save the Childreo) and a furconfident they will be backed by ther 100 miles behind is Simon Walker (Toshiba). Conditions Broughton is now conscious are becoming warmer as the of the focus he has attracted as fleet moves north. The disthe only British entry in the race. masted Concert continues to "It's a hit frightening as we are motor sail under jury rig to the

The eight yachts in the Clipper 96 race start their fifth leg from the Galapagos Islands to has a near 1,000-mile lead in the Hawaii today.

#### TODAY'S FIXTURES

Matches not on pools coupone; 3.0 unless

Maches not on pools coupons; 3.0 unless stated

6M WILDCHALL CONFERENCE: Abhrucham 
v Macclesfield; Famborough v Barth; 
Gatashead v Stalyandege; Halitax v Northwich; Hayea v Woking; Kettering v Rushden 
å Diamonds; Holderminster v Bromsgrove 
(11.30); Southport v Morecambe; Stavenage v Stough; Telford v Hednestord; Welling 
v Dover (13.30).

UNBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Accringson v Bamber Bridge; Alfreton v Leek; 
Byth v Guissley; Colwyn Bay v Knowsley; 
Emley v Prickley; Geinsborough Trurity v 
Boston Litt Hyde Litt v Buston; Lancaster 
v Barrow; Macrine v Chorley; Spernymoor v 
Bishop Aucklend; Wirson v Winston, First 
Division: Ashton Urd v Congeton; Atherton 
LIR v Netherfield; Custon Astron v Radduffle 
Borough; Frastley; Cestic v Stockshridge 
(12.0); Filton v Droyladen (11.0); Gretna 
v Whidey Boy (1.0); Herrogate Youn v Bradford Park Avenue; Leigh RMI v Morlengton; 
Lincoln Urd v Worksop (11.30); Matfock v 
Essewood Bowr; Warnington v Gress Hamcool. 
DR MARTIENS LEAGUE Premier Division: Incoin Part v Workspor (11-30); Marbock v
Essissood Tours Warrington v Great Harwood.
DR MARTENS LEAGUE Presider Division:
Ashindr v Stringhoume (11-10); Burton V Great
Ashindr v Stringhoume (11-10); Burton V Great
Gravesord v Chelmistod (11-10); Helesower Town v Workester; Hessings v Creater; Wing's Lynn v Certificitie Corp; Marten v Newport APC (12-0); Nurreason v Atherstone
(12-0); Selsbury V Dorthester; Sudbury Town v Beldock Midlerd Division: Biston v Stourbridge; Grantham v Corby (11-30); Blesston
Town v Hincidey Town: Raunds v Poutraeli
(11-30); Reddicton V Besham (12-0); Sosibus
Borough v Moor Grase (12-0); Stoutshed Dynamo v Tarnworth (11-0); Sosibus
Borough v Moor Grase (12-0); Stafford v
Dudley; Sutton Codified v Paget Rangles
(11-10); VS Rugby v Bedworth (12-0); Sositham
Drivisions: Bashley v Haven;
Erith & Behedere v Dertford (12-0); Farsham v Water-lowille; Forest Green v Cinderfort: Margiste v St Leonards Stammorti;
Konbridge v Fisher (11-30); Trowbridge v Witney (11-30); Weston-super-Misre v Clevedon (11-30); Weston-super-Misre v Clevedon (11-30); Weston-super-Misre v Clevedon (11-10); Sositham Wood v Bishop's Stortford (12-30); Brommey v Duhwich
Hamlet (12-0); Convey Island v Bishton (11-20); Convey Island v Bishrians
(11-10); Kroyton v Minycleefs; Maidenhead
v Hampton (11-30); Marlow v Usbridge

C11.30); Molessey v Welton & Hersham; Trame v Abingtion Town; Woldingham v Chesham (11.0); Worthing v Bognor Regs. Second Division: Bensead v Horsham (11.30); Bedford v Ibbury (1.10); Bedford v Ibbury (1.10); Bodford v Lighton (11.0); Brackned v Hungerford; Chellont St Petter v Hernal Hempetsad (11.0); Collier Row & Rondford v Ware (12.0); Dorking v Lestherhead; Windsor & Ebon v Egham (11.0); Whenhos v Witham (11.0); Third Division: Aveley v Capton (11.0); Est Trunck v Brainvae (11.0); Herdraf v Harlow (11.0); Lowes v Epsom & Ewel; Ting v Southal; Westform v Northwoot; Wingses & Flochley v Krugsbury (1.0).
UNIVER SUSSEX COUNTY LEASIE: First Bivision (ali 11.0); Arundel v Peghant Estiboume Town v Languagy Sports; Hastindola v Burgiase NE; Horsham v McCa v Wick; Ringmer v Hellsham; Saltisen v Pescerawa & Felsconbe; Selssy v Portfield; Southalck v Shoreham; Turne Bridges v Celevood; Whitehawk v Mile Osk.

President United Countes League Presiden Divisions Bosson Young Hobesch (12.30); Bourne v Spaiding Long Buckby v Ford Sports (12.0); Mirriess Blackstons

v Stambout Northampton Spencer v Co-gerhoe (11.0); Potton v Storbid (11.0); St Neons v Eynesbury (11.0); Stewarts & Lloyds Corby v Destorough (11.0); Westrag-borough v Newport Pagnell (11.0); Westrag-ton v Kempston (11.0).

borough v Nempor Prejie (11.0);
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Blackpool Rovers v Danvert;
Bursough v Boots; Checkerton v Atherton;
Cofferies; Citherde v Rossendele; Essayod
Handy v Newcastle Town (1.0); Glossop
North End v Salitad; Kdastove v Nertwich
(11.0); Perrän v Hoher Old Boys (2.15);
St Helens v Maine Road; Institut v Mossley; Vaudrali GM v Pressot.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE; Lymington v
Brockenhung (11.30); Andover Whitehach
(11.30); BAT Sports v Rytton (11.30); Bemerton Heath v Downton (12.0);
Christohurch v Romsey (11.0); Eastleigh v
Aarostruchres (11.0); Portsmouth RN v
Gospon (11.0); Ryd Sest Covers; Tractisan v Petersfield; Wimborne v Bournemouth
RC (11.30); RN EDPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE

PC (11.30).

RTERINK EUPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE
(ell 11.0): Blowich v Pelsait; Bridgrorth v
Strint Chaserpan v Boldmerg Hindrey Athlette v Barwelt Krypersley v Rocester; Odbury v Halesowen Harmers; Pershore v
Stratford; Rushall v Blekenelt; Stepenhal v
West Midlands Police; Willerhall v Sandvel.

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division (11.0 unless stated): Bury Town v Des
(12.0); Pelastowe v Woodbridge; Gorleston
v Great Yampouth; Haddelph v Stowmarket;
Halstead v Totree; Harwich v Clactor; Sohern v Newmarket; Sudbury Wanderers v

V Mariot, Wromin v Loweson.

SCREWPIX DRECT LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Bristol Mariot Farm v Mangotsfield (11.0); Backwel v Brisingtor; Banstaple v Bidetord; Bhaport v Bridgewer; Calhe v Chippenham (11.0); Westbury v Ode Down (11.0); Twerton v Britors (12.30).

(11:0): Therian v Emare (12:30).
FEDERATION SREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE FIRST Divisions Stricton Viest Aucklend (13:0): Whitby v Gusborough (13:30).
NORTHERN COUNTES EAST LEAGUE Prunier Division: Hudoral v Ambid (12:0).
WHISTON LEAD KENT LEAGUE Bedenham v Crey (13:30): Chesham v Code mark Faversham v Deat (13:0); Famess v Lordswood (12:0); Ramsgate v Folkestone (11:0); Samsnor F Risch LEAGUE Premier Division: Auts v Citanalie; Crustolers V Coloraine; Glemann v Portadown; Limfeld v Glemonh, First Division: Bellymens v Omagh; Carrick v Ballychre; Lame v Distiliery; Newry v Bangor.

rick v Ballycers; Lame v Distillen; Newry v Bangor.

LEASLE OF WALES: Bangor City v Cemaes Say; Bany Rown v Inter Catille Tel Cardiff (11.30); Camerthen v Briton Fany; Conneith's Quey v Liersenstreid; Ebbw Vele v Cemitran; Fins v Holywell (1.0); Newton v Ceenswijn, For v Holywell (1.0); Newton v Ceenswijn, Rhyl v Corney; Welshpool v Aberystwyth.

FRENDLY MATCHES: Badey v Dewsbury (12.0): Huddersfeld v Xeigriky (1.0); Leeds v Halifax (11.30); Wigen v St Heiens (3.0). Postposed: Workington v Carliele.

Rugby Union

CLIS MACHES: Hartlepod Rovers vilves: Hartle-pod (2.15); Hartley vi Act-Forest (2.0); Nation v Safark (2.0); Meltose v Gais (2.0); Northern-pon v String County (3.0); Reartley Cambone (2.30); Stoutholigh v Dudley Kingswinford (2.30); Watsonams v Hend's FP (3.00); Edin-burgh Azada v Edinburgh Bordens (2.00); Edin-don Irish v Old Milheltens (3.00). Cercelled: Bridgend v Moseley; Newceste v Northern.

Cricket SECOND TEST (First day of five, no rest day): Zmbabke v Engand Placare Spors (2.0).

SUPERLEAGUE: Beeingstoke Beony Northg-ham Pertines (8.0); Sheffield Steeless v Carrier Devils (7.30). PREMIER LEAGUE: Guildford Farmes v Med way Bears (8.0); Slough Jets v Swindon Ice-Lords (8.0); Yellord Tigers v Solthull Blaze (8.0). SCOTTISH LEAGUE Durations Wings vi File Flyers (4.0); Passey Presses v Munsy field Royels (4.0).

#### SPORTING DIGEST

American football
MFL: San Francisco 24 Debrot 14.
AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
EASTERN DIVISION BRISHOSTEDRIE
NBA: New York 82 Atlanta 75: Orlando 89
Ceveland 84: Munnesota 107 Utah 98:
Chicago 113 New Jersey 81; Houston 75 Minwarde 81; San Antonio 79 Mann 90; Proena 109 Denwar 112 (ort; Portient 84 Wassington 106; Sacramento 100 LA Cippers 88.
EASTERN CONFERENCE
ATLANTIC DIVISION
W L Pet 08 NATIONAL POOTBALL CONFERENCE

X-Jacksonville9 7 0 325 33	
Clacioned	Washington 13 13 .500 642
Houston 8 8 0 345 31	
Baltimore4 12 0 371 44	Philadelphia 7 18 280 12
WESTERN DIVISION	New Jersey
Z-Degwer13 3 0 391 27	
Kenses City 9 7 0 297 300 Sas Diego 8 3 0 310 370	CENTRAL DIVISION
San Diego	
Oakland7 9 0 340 293	
Seettle	
NATIONAL POOTBALL CONFERENCE	
EASTERN DIVISION	
Y-Define 10 8 0 286 250	Milwanitee
X-Philadelphia10 6 0 363 343	2 12 500 104
Washington 9 7 0 384 32	
Artzees7 9 0 300 39	
NY Glants6 10 0 242 29	
CENTRAL DIVISION	
Z-Green Bay13 3 0 456 210	
X-Minnesota9 7 0 298 315	
Chicago 7 8 0 283 305	
Temps Bay	
Detroit5 11 0 302 368	San Antonin 6 18 .250 134
WESTERN DIVISION	Vancouver 6 22 214 154
Y-Carolina12 4 0 367 218	PAULTA LAYIDARI

#### Tomorrow

Cinched playoff berth
 Clinched division title
 Clinched conference title

Football

More than half of the seats on the new Football League Board of Directors will be contested, it has been revealed. While the three places reserved for the First Division dubs were agreed last week, it was likely that there would be less agreement among the other two divisions. Only Crewe chairman John Bowler is sure of his place alongade ipswich's David Sheepshanks, Ian Stott of Oldham and Crystal Palace chief Ron Noades. Sheepshanks is under-Full guide to what's happening when and where in the next 12 months in the Independent Calendar of World Sport for 1997, produced in association with Polo Sport. There is also the opportuni-Ron Noades. Sheepshanks is under-stood to be the First Division clubs ty for readers to purchase a favoured candidate for the chairman high-quality glossy colour ship of the new board, which takes over from the present so-men body next month. Ballot papers are being sent out version of the calendar.

reas scotaca 2 APE RESULTS: FA Cup second round replay: Burnley 1 Walsall 1 (after extra time - Burnley win 4-2 on penalties; FA Cup second Carling Provinceship: Newcastle United 1 (Shedrer, 29) Everpool 1 (Fowler 45).

MHL: Boston 3 Chicago 3 (of); Montwell 0 Or, tame 6: New Jersey O Buffato O (on; NY Is-landers 3 Flonda 4 (of); Tampa Bay 1 Washington 3; Toronto 5 Pittsburgh 6; Del-las 1 San Jose 2; Colorado 4 Calgary 3; Ana-hern 1 Phoena 2; Vancouver O Edmonton 7

TODAY'S **NUMBER** 

543

The Coventry City club appearance record, which goalkeeper Steve Ogrizovic is due to break in the home game against Middlesbrough on Saturday. The present record was set 26 years ago by George Curtis.

## Youthful Promise a better bet than older Man

It is probably just as well that a very good chance of becom-bookmakers have yet to hit ing the first horse to win the King upon the idea of introducing gift tokens at Christmas. While some might hail them as the ideaverage cracker, particularly if they are unwrapped and used on the Boxing Day card at

Today's six-race card at the Sunbury track, with the King George VI Chase as its centrepiece, may not have attracted as many runners as usual because of the forecast good going, but it is no less demanding, and while every race holds its own fascination, care is required if punters are to emerge unscathed.

There will be those, for instance, for whom One Man. favourite for the King George VI Chase, will represent an adult version of Santa Claus, in he relied upon utterly to foot the bill for the annual debauch. With six days left to the New Year, however, it is time to practice a truly worthwhile resolutinn, which is to avoid odds-on favourites at all costs.

This is not to say that Gordon Richards's chaser does not have

George twice in the same year, the weather having delayed last season's victory until early Janal present for the punter, their uary. Yet at current odds of lifespan would rival that of the around 8-13 (he may well drift on-course), it is vital to ask whether he is really as far ahead One Man's last three runs in-

clude two wins, but how much he has achieved in beating cither Barton Bank or Monsieur Le Cure must be open to doubt. Sandwiched in between, meanwhile, was his dreadful performance when favourite for the Gold Cup at Cheltenham. In the final analysis, there is precious little rock-solid tnp-class form here on which to start risking the sort of sums necessary to make a bet worthwhile.

With eight runners declared, an each-way bet is a far more appealing alternative. Fears that the race would be without two of its stars were eased when Rough Quest and Mr Mulligan were both given the go ahead to run on Christmas Eve. Mr Mulligan's participation was con-

**Greg Wood** tips a talented novice for victory in the King George VI Chase

firmed after he passed a fitness test while Rough Quest's trainof his rivals on the form book as that quote implies. The answer must be that he is not.

er, Terry Casey, decided the ground was suitable for this year's Grand National winner. Casey travelled from his base at Dorking, Surrey on Christmas

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Aardwolf (Kempton 1.10) NB: Chai-Yo (Kempton 1.40)

Eve to check that the going would not be too fast for the 10-year-old. "At the moment we are running," he said. "It's fast and it's not ideal but it is raceable and there is no jar."

Rough Quest is no longer a fair price at 7-2, since three miles on a flat track with fast going is unlikely to be a sufficient test. The same may be true of Nahthen Lad, while Couldnt Be Better's name is an increasing embarrassment and Barton Promise's precocity that he is Bank is always likely to make a desperate mistake at a vital

Two options remain. Trying Again proved that he gets today's trip when second to Belmont King at Chepstow three weeks ago, has a touch of class too, and is a very tempting 20-1 chance. It is STRONG PROMISE (nap 2.15), however, who can prevail today. Geoff Hubbard's runner

best hurdlers in Britain when a neck runner-up to Urubande in the Aintree Hurdle in April, but his magnificent physique had always held the prospect of better to come over fences. So it proved when, despite his youth and inexperience, he was beaten only narrowly by Challenger Du Luc in the Murphy's Gold Cup, and a subsequent victory at Ascot made it clear that it was not a fluke performance. One Man may well be the best of his age-group over fences, but a member of the next generation could now be ready to shove his somewhat lacklustre predeces-

younger than all bar one of the field for the Grade One Feltham Novices' Chase. His fellow five-year-old, though, is the one to beat, for while the likes of See More Business and Fine Thyne are undoubtedly useful prospects, the defeat by Aardwolf (next best 1.10) of Major Summit at Sandown last time should prove to be the best form on offer today. The novice hurdle too will be just as revealing, and Nordance Prince (12.40), showed himself to be one of the who has more speed than stamina, should find two miles around Kempton on fastish ground an ideal combination. Chai Yo (1.40) and Uhuru (3.15) will go well in the handicap hurdles.

The feature event elsewhere is the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase at Wetherby, in which The Grey Monk (2.15), runner-up to Coome Hill in the Hennessy, could find the Lo Stregone is his most significant opponent. Gordon Richards is almost overburdened with topclass grey chasers at present, and The Grey Monk, at least, should take one of the best prizes of It is a sign of Strong Christmas hack to Cumbria.

said: "We couldn't have raced to-

day but it is nice and sunny so

it depends on the weather

tonight." Huntingdon will also

be under scrutiny at the same



One Man, who faces a tough rival in Strong Promise

Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

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MIGFIELD

20.20

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THE PERSON NAMED AND PARTY.

Miles .

KEMPTON 1.10: AARDWOLF beat more experienced horses over this trip at Sandown last time and showed that he has the pace for this quicker course when previously win-ning over two miles. See More Business is the one to overcome. 

1.40: ALBEMINE, who is suited by fast ground and a flat track, can defeat the progressive Chai-Yo.

2.15: If MR MULLIGAN can overcome the injury he suffered this native to One Man, who is perhaps overrated. The selection put up an



ruary, but has been let down by his jumping on his last two starts. A renum to a right-handed track may be beneficial. Conversely, Rough Quest would be happier racing anti-clock-

2.45: POTTER'S BAY and Mister Draw are closely matched but the former may prefer the fast ground

#### Three meetings fall to freeze At Newton Abbot, the race-

gold among his risals, the son of Saise can still start his new career successfully. Sanmartino, formerly trained by Barry Hills and now in David Nicholson's attable but still owned by Khalid Abdullah, as sure to know his new job and will not lack for fitness. Kalisah is undefeated after seven risces - four bumpers (one last season) and three hurdle races - most recently reaking all to starn Herbert Lodge seven lengths at Cheftenham. The five-year-old, who represents Martin Pipe's stable in preference to two others, might not have finished improving yet and rates the chief threat. Proton, another former useful Flat racer, trounced Desert Green (who went off favourite) nave lengths when both made their debuts at Windsor and they meet on algebraic little in all and is another files to set before. Leveling Saide, who makes

they meet on identical terms. Denegoid justified favouritism at Windsor on only his secon outing this term and third in all and is another likely to get better, Lauding Spirit, who make his hurding bow, was a decent type on the Flat, scoring twice this year, the latest under 95 12th in a field of 18 here in September.

1.10 PERTEMPS RECRUITMENT FELTHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £35,000 3m -Penalty Value £22,950

PORCELLY VALUE E.22,5500

BPP-11 ARROWOLF (18) (D) (Lady Carriba Dempste) C Brooks 5 11 7

453-317 BUCKHOUSE BOY (12) (The Beady Boys) N Twiston-Davies 6 11 7

1-11300 DEDDAM (Fig (25) (Mar Stelle Englin) F Doumen (Fig 5 11 7

AD1211 FINE TRINIE (18) (CD) (Peter Megand) Mas A Perrett 7 11 7

20-12-1 HARCHAM BOY (27) (D) (Robert Boston) O Nicholson 6 11 7

111-12 SEE MORE BUSINESS (28) (P K Barber & J A Keighley) P Nichols 6 11 7

213-112 SOLOMON'S DANCER (USA) (28) (I blee) G Richards 6 11 7

R

BETTING: 7-4-See More Business, 9-2 Aurdwolf, 6-1 Rotcham Boy, 8-1 Solomon's Descer, 9-1 Budichame Boy, 10-1 Fine Thyse, 16-1 Djeddab

Paul Nicholis, who landed this in 1993 with See More Indians, should be on the mark again.

Poul Nicholls, who landed this in 1993 with See More Indians, should be on the mark again, this time with SEE MORE BUSINESS. Winner of both completed starts in point-to-points, the stx-year-old won all three of his novice hundles last season and went in first time up over fences when defeating Wee Windy eight lengths at Chapstow, where Buckhouse Buy (same terms) was 1.1 lengths further away last of three. The selection performed well when beet en a length by Dorans Pride at Fairyhouse — third-placed Executive Options was a distance back — and will take some beating here. Buckhouse Boy beat Foodmoker Star 25 lengths at Newbury next time but felt when leading in Foodbroker Star's see at Ungfield, Aandwoolf

at Newbury next time but fell when leading in Foodbroker Star's nece at Lingfield, Aerdwolf has a 1.00 per cent record offer two outings this term, defeating Amendo 1.9 lengths over how miles at Sandown and Inching out Major Summit in an extended times-miler on the same track. He looks the right one for forecast bediers, Solomon's Dancer, who sports the One Man colours of John Hele, was the epitome of consistency over timber less term and has taken kindly to the larger obstacles, winning his first two chases at Cartale and Newcastle and finishing a bud-ond-e-half-length second to the odds-on Sparky Gayle on a return to the latter course. This is a new trip for him but he should last it out on this easy tradk. Finise They have a londed three of his four chases findulding a dead-heat with Berude Not Yo at Kempton) and was tunner-up to dall Equiname at Wordseter in the other but has more on he plate this time, as does Hatchean Boy, who made a winning fancing bow at Newbury, though the last rismed is bound to improve.

140 NETWORK PERSONNEL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 2m Penalty Value £6,827

sors aside.

Although the weather is not as severe as it was last year when all 10 meetings were lost on Boxing Day, Ayr, Newton Ab-bot and Wincanton all fell victim to the freeze yesterday and prospects for several other cards hinged on the frost stay-

ing away last night.
Officials at Ayr walked the course yesterday morning and found it to be frozen. With the forecast for another sharp frost in Scotland last night they were

forced to call the meeting off.

course general manager, Pat Masterson, said: The course was frozen at 12 noon today and in view of further frost being forecast we had no alternative but to abandon." They were slightly more op-

timistic at Wincanton, where officials gave the course until the afternoon to begin in thaw but found it to be still frozen at 3pm. Among the courses under threat, Hereford will hold an in-

spection at 7.30am today. John

But frustrated racegoers will be able to see some competition on the television as there are no problems anticipated for the day's most prestigious meeting at Kempton. The course reported a relatively mild night on Christmas Eve.

211, YET AGAIN (14) (A P Griffs) Mos G Referrity 4 10 D. P13GO . PYRIGHC DANCE (21) (T W Ying) M Hoynes 6 10 O . isht: 10st. True bandious weights: intermedic 9st 13th, Yet Adalis 9st 10th. People Dance 7st 5th. BETTING: 7-4 Chail Yo. 3-1 Albemine. 4-1 Yot Arish. 7-1 Interpreted, 10-1 Thinking Twice. 33-1 Pyrotic

CHAI-YO is much improved this season and can make it four was out of five despite racing off a 15th higher mark than when gaining his first success of the season at Haydock last month. Jim Old's charge later won at Almee and Chettenham, his only reverse being when finding Mister Monose eight lengths too good at Newbury on his penultimate start when intermedic finished a length and threequarters admit in third and Thinding Twice was miles behind in ninth, Clui-Yo should again have the measure of that pair who meet him on 7th and 1,0 better terms, respectively, Albemiae looks the main danger. Julic Cecif's number had the third 1,9 lengths away when going under three parts of a length to Most. Equal at Hunfington on only his zecond outing of the season, and likely to improve. Yet Again, who has a preferred engagement at Wolvenhampton, has been successful in the last two of his three starts over timber, both novice events at Taunton after finishing second in a seller on his debut.

Selection: CHAI-YO

### 2.15 PERTEMPS KING GEORGE VI CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 1) £100,000 3m Penalty Value £63,325

4420-25 BARRON BANK (40) KCDI GAS J Mould) D Nicholson 10 11 10... \_AP McCo 1911-12 TRANS AGAIN (19) (C) (W H Dore) O Gandollo 6 11 10. - 8 declared -

BETTING: 4-7 One Mon., 4-1 Rough Quest, 6-1 Strong Promine, 10-1 Barton Back, 16-1 Trying Again 1996 (nov at Sandown, 6 Juni): One Man 8 11 10 R Dunwoody 11-4 (G Richards) 11 ran PORM GUIDE

. There have been several duel winners of this event, which dates back to 1937, and ONE MAN looks posed to follow up last season's victory when the race was staged at Sandown.

Gordon Richards's grey won his first two starts last season, at Ayr and Haydock and was

completing a hat-bick when winning this event by 14 lengths from Monsieur Le Cure. One Man falled to show his real form when favourise and a 34-legigth shift to Imperial Call in the Rect letter to show his real with which knowled and a strength to dispetit to uniperial community Gold Cup, dropping out quickly believen the last two fences but looked as good as even when stamming Bartons Bank, winner of this in 1993 and clear only to blunder and unseat at the last terms. Bertons Bank, winner of this in 1993 and clear only to blunder and unseat at the last in 1994, was behind when pulled up before two out last term. Grand National hero Reagh Quest, who took a melden hunde at Folkestone desprie being thought likely to need the run, had Couldate Be Better 19 lengths behind in third when a four-length second in the Gold Cup but One Man should turn around Cheltenhern running with both. Rough Quest may provide most danger, though. Strong Promise, who has won four of his six chases – including the Prist Bank Gold Cup at Ascot a week after failing narrowly behind Challenger Du Luc in the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenhern – tackes three miles for the first time. The sax-year-old should get the distance on this sharp course and, whist he may not be good enough to cope with One Man and Rough Quest at levels at this stage of his career, can take, minor

honours. Neithber Led, whose four victories in 1985-96 included the Sun Alliance Chase, finished well besten over hurdles at Bangor on his reappearance but will be sharper for the run. Mr Nulligan, one of lest season's leading lights among the notice disappointed when fourth to Bernont King at Chapstow. But he will stip their now and, on 8th more taxourable terms, can reverse the form with Trying Again ( prefers soft going), who firished second. However, neither of them appear good enough here.

Selection: ONE MAN

.[	245	NETWORK DESIGN WAYWARD LAD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 2m 4f 110yds Pen Val £10,309
1	1/23-11	GREENBACK (BELL (17) (lock Joseph) P Hobbs 5 11 7
2	11-1211	MRSTER DRUM (20) [D) (Malcolm Batchelor) M Wilhinson 7 11 7
3	124-111	POSTER'S BAY (14) (0) (Mrs.) E Proper D Nicholson 7 11 7
4	200-151	SURLINE FELLOW (22) (Lady Annabel Goldsmith) N Henderson 6 11.7
		-4 declared -
BE	TINE: 5-4	Potter's Boy, 9-4 Mister Drum, 4-1 Greenback, 7-1 Sublime Fellow
		PANE AUDE

Twice a buildies scorer in 1995-96, POTTER'S BAY is unbestien after three runs over fences

[	3.15	PERTEMPS CRACK CLUB HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m 110yds Penelty Value £6,912
1	2/12223	MYTTON'S CROICE (28) (BF) (Gordon Mython) D Micholson 5 11 10
2	33-2124	LANSDOWNE (29) (D) (R F Dermeed) P Nichols 8 11.7
3	116/04	CASILE COURAGEOUS (12) (C) (Lindy Many Muratord) Lady Herries 9 11 7
4	/JHR-4	PEAISWOOD (67) (CD) (Peter Taplin) M Channon 8 11 1 R Hughes
5	1/16-35	LILLING (13) (D) (P J Morgan) G Morfock 8 10 11
6		Tilet (19) (C) (The Coack Club) J Jenkins 6 10 8
7		CONCENSY 90Y (10) (S.D. Herrstock) Mrs. J. Pignan 11 10 4
6		MICK THE REAK (19) (C) (Sir Nicholas Wilson) J Upson 7 10 4
9		ENLING COURT (404) (R S Brookhouse) N Babbago 7 10 0
-		-9 declared -

while he was fourth to General Tonic on a return to Chepstow tast time. Co placed to Top Javelin at Newton Abbot last time, earlier got home by half a length from Time at Sandown but the second should reverse that running on 3lb better terms.

Selection: MYTTON'S CHOICE

KING GEORGE VI CHASE - 10-YEAR-TALE

161 251 10 45 94 101 34 923 164 H

#### KEMPTON

12.40 Secret Spring 2.15 Mr Mulligan 2.45 Potter's Bay 1.10 Aardwolf GOING: Good,

Right-hand course. Practically flat, Run-in of 200yd. M Course is on A308 at Sembury. (Bus link from Richmond Underground station.) Rempton Park railway station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club \$25, hinlans (16 to 25-year-olds) \$18; Grandstand \$15; Silver Ring \$7. Accompanied children under-16 free. CAR

SIS

III LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: D Nicholson -- 17 winners from 59 runners gives a soccess ratio of 25.8% and a loss to a \$1 keed scale of \$0.97; M Pipe - 12 wanners, 58 runsers, 20.7%, +\$13.13; N Hendorson — 12 winners, 73 runners, 16.4%, -\$4.40; N Twiston-Davies — 6 winners, 51 runners, 15.7%, -\$23.30. ELEADING JOCKEYS: J Osborne — 27 winners, 111 rides, 24.9%, +524.19; E Dans woody — 20 winners, 104 rides, 19,2%, ~331,80; A Maguire — 17 winners, 79 rides, 21,7%, ~57,41; M A Fitzgerald — 17 winners, 90 rides, 18,9%, ~51,89. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None

LONG-DESTANCE RUNNERS: Solomon's Dancer (1.10) & One Man (2.15) have been sent 201 miles by G Rachards from Greystoke, Cambria.

•	*****	Neg egy gyfer yng en ad i Dant - 141 Car Cal eg
1	111111	
2	0-21	
3	2	DESERT GREEN (FR) (21) (BF) (Mrs P Jubert) R Hannon 7 11 5
4	02460	PICHANS FLUTTER (385) (R V Wingle) D Esworth 8 11 5 Photograph
5		LEADING SPIRIT (Induna Racing Pariners Two) C Walt 4 11 5
Б	D	MANSSUR (21) (5d McGrath) N Henderson 4 11 5
7	PO	NIGHT FLARE (FFO (21) ON'S Figna Gordon' S Woodman 4 11 5 X Goode
8	3/33	NORDANCE PRINCE (26) (Pinks Gyrs) Miss Gay Kellenay 5 11 5 L Reywolds
9	404P-0P	PALLADRIM BOY (20) (Paradium Ltd (Builders Merchants)) Mrs J Retter 6 11 5 C Mande
w	1	PROTON (21) (D) (Person War Raong) R Alehust 6 11 5 R Dunwoody
11		SAMMARTIMO (K Abdulan) D Nicholson 4 11 5
17		SECRET SPRING (FR) (28) (D) (RF) (M K George) P Hedger 4 11 5M Richards
13		MOOR HALL LADY (2/9) (R S Brookhouse) N Bakkage 5 11 0

1995, meeting abandoned FORM CUIDE

SANSMARTINO, the 1995 Elior victor, has had his intended hunding debut delayed three times by the weather and, although he will not find it easy with Kallasti, Proton and Deno-

#### **SEDGEFIELD**

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: NORE.

12.10 Erni 12.40 Tribune 1.10 Brighter Shade 1.40 Adib 2.10 Jendee 2.40 Full O'Praise 3.10

PEECAUTIONARY INSPECTION 7.39am GOING: Lond to Soft.

Left-base, unshinting control. Subjection of ASSO and A177. Bus
server of the SE of twen near junction of ASSO and A177. Bus
server from Stocklop station (Paul or Durkum station (Lim). ADMESSION: Publish 5.9 (OAPS 1), Course SE, CAR PARK: Prev.

VINORED PIRST TIME: Pocular Guelthe (12:10) WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Fen Terrier (3.10) won at Cattern k on Thursday. LONG-DESTANCE EUNNERS: Cullin Caper (1) Hillian loves sont IN miles by T Watson from Withoughton, Line

12.10 STANLEY RACING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,500 3m 3f 110yds 

BETTRIG: 5-2 Good Hand, 7-2 Emi, 6-1 Barastormer, Saher, Chill Factor,

12.40 LINION HALL-SIENNA STUD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASSE) £3,000 2m 5f 110yds 

Microsom wegett. 10%. True handiscop mengetis: Guillin Caper 9st 7th. World Wilds BETTBIG: 3-1 Manettia, 7-2 Tribuno, 4-1 Sudden Spin, 9-2 Sorton Heights, 6-1 Trenizi, 7-1 Johnny's Torn, 14-1 Guillin Caper, 20-1 Others

1.10 DURHAM INNS MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS

E) £4,200 added 2m 5f 36-260F ARESTODEMUS (28) Mrs L Marshall 7 11 10. OFFP-U COOLRENY (10) V Trompson 7 11 10 Mr M Thompson OFFP-D DESPERATE DAYS (15) F Nuts 7 11 10 W Disea

2 DRY HILL LAD (22) J Norton 5 11 10 .......

5F53 FAIR ALLY (7) N. Sowerthy 6 11 10 ......

FERNI LEADER Mrs & Swenborth & 11 10 430(F) MOST RICH (799) 8 Bison 8 11 10 TRed 00005 NOOSA SOUND (15) L Lungo 5 11 10 M Senith 50-UZFF ROYAL HAND (7) R ARRISON 6 11 10 MF R ARRISON SAFETY FACTOR ( H JOYSON 8 11 10 \_\_\_\_\_\_ S F Ryen (S) 0-00 SELDOM BUT SEVERE (28) E Ellor 6 11 10 E Callegian (5)

- 12 deciared -BETTENC: 9-4 Brighter Shade, 4-1 Dry HIII Lad, 9-2 Safety Factor, 5-1 Fern Leader, 12-1 Most Rich, 16-1 Feir Ally, Royal Hand, 20-1 others

1.40 STANLEY RACING NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £2,500 3m 3f 110yds 

2.10 NORTH YORKSHIRE BORO BEST HANDA-CAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 3m 3f PS1.P65 SON OF RUS (18) (C) (BF) Mrs M Reveley B 11 10 ... N Smith OP-0-6FF MARKHWOOD (7) N Chumbertan 9 11 10 ... T Read (13679-1) TWM STUTES (22) (C0) J Luner 7 11 10 ... W Fry C322-10 (CNOSTY (18) Mrs A Seventin 6 11 4 ... Mr Chris Wilson APL374 JEHDEE (6) (C0) B Eleon B 11 D ... & Cohell M1374 HURSHCANE ANDREW (25) J S Moore B 10 12 ... Mr N Wilson C30-6-36 NOWES SERVICK (18) P Resumment 7 10 4 ... Z Cohengham (3) SHALL DESCRIPTION (18) P Resumment 7 10 4 ... Z Cohengham (3) SHALL DESCRIPTION (18) P Resumment 7 10 3 ... ... Supplie 5545 PP SHOOK PORT (6) 0 Lanc 9 to 1..... - 6 declared -BETTONO; 3-1 Duren Lard, 4-1 Kings Sermon, 5-1 Choisty, 6-1 Son of Iris, Marchinecod, Jendon, 10-1 others

2.40 RENT ROLL CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 110 yds 

4330-50 SUPER SANDY (29) (0) F Watcon 9 10 9 K Johnson SETING: 2-1 Weaver George, 5-2 Cover Point, 4-1 Roll O'Pyales, 9-2 Val De Rama, 10-1 Chill Whyt, 16-1 Super Seady

3.10 HALLGARTH MANOR HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 1f

363376 DUAL MARE (UN 1 Rodersin 9 12 0 25FP 53 EUROPHAST (20) (10) 5 Februard 7 11 12 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Lee (3) 241521 FEN TERRIER (7) 5 Marsgr 4 11 10 Fest \_\_\_ E Callegium (3) 5135 EUROLINA THE REBEL (2) 3) 5 Cash 4 11 6 Minos R Clark (7)

HUNTINGDON WASA HYPERION

12.30 Haunting Music 1.00 Boyfriend 1.30 Call Me River 2.00 KORBELL (nap) 2.30 Dante's View 3.00 Wisley Warrior

INSPECTION 7.30AM GOING: Chase course - Good; Stardles - Good to Soft.

Right-hand, level course. Run-in 200yds. Recognize is at ignotion of A1 and A604. Huntington railway ASSION: Members 511; Tanersalls 58; Course 54, New Tatersalls facilities in use. CAR PARE: Free. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Kamikaze (12.70), Wisley Wonder WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Tribune (1.00) has been sent 170 miles by C Thornton from Middleham, North Yorks (1.00) & My Suster (3.00) sent 179 miles by Mies 8 Half from Cov-

12.30 CHRISTMAS TIDE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 4f 11.0yds 11-1211 MISTER DRUM (20) (CD) M WHOTHOR 7 11 12 J R Ken 5/5/434-4 PLEPPINCE (20) N Geseloe 6 10 12 W M 1562-43 HAUDEING MUSIC (17) MS A Perett 6 10 12 ...... 0 Gall \$55.44 PLIPPONCE (20) N Gendee 6 10 12 W Minuton 1562-43 HAUMENS MUSIC (17) Mrs A Perett 6 10 12 W Gelingher 1562-72 JAC DEL PRENCE (25) P Norbole 6 10 12 L J. Lawrence 40 JOLLY BOAT (6) F Jordan 9 10 12 L Appell (3) 11/040- MARKACE (200) N Gelingher 10 12 A Thomson 8 00-04 SAFERIDE (90) J Gelond 6 10 12 PH More 1575-2F THE SHY PADRE (15) Mrs J Plensin 7 10 12 W Minuton 03-14432 WISSLEY WONDER (15) (87) N Twiston-Denes 8 10 12

1.00 CHRISTMAS BOX HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 5f 110yds 042-664 MANGREE (127) (C) (C) N Calaghan 9 12 D R Minesey (3) 10150/1 TRIBUNE (08) (D) C Thoman 5 12 D M Poster (039:15 TOPS/MYER (349) Miss S Hall 8 11 13 A Thomas 

timinum wegt: 10st. Fue = 10 declared timinum wegt: 10st. Fue - 10st oright Night Fancy 9st Sh.
BETTING: 3-1 Thilmen, 7-2 First Crisch, 5-1 Topsznyer, Maneree, 6-1.
Boyldend, 10-1 Cambo, 12-1 others

1.30 BEDFORD LODGE HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 3m #PUF3-U YEDMAN WARROOR (12) R Rows 9 11 10 \_\_\_\_\_ D G\*Sullivon
U12251: CANTORES FRUTER (983) Ma. J Petron 9 11 9 \_\_\_\_ W Manastra
01304: DARRIEN THE BRANE (984) OD C Brooks 8 11 8 .D Gallagner
414-214: SOLO SENT (14) (20) A Jones 7 11.3 \_\_\_\_\_ D Bridgenster
426433 HOUSEHOM (22) W Jen's 10 11 2 \_\_\_\_\_ ME R Burton (7)
294116: RRBAR RREER (426) DR O MCCan 11 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_ 42-2521 SUGAR HELL [16] (CD) J GRIFON 6 10 12 P Hide F013-12 EASTERN RIVER (24) (RF) T Forster 10 10 7 A Thornton

— 12 declared —

Minimum weight: 10st. Two handlings weight: Night Fancy 9st 5th.
BETTING: 5-2 Call Ma Silvey, 7-2 Sugar Mg. 9-2 Cantoria Frator,
ear Hiver, 8-1 Sulo Gent, 12-1 Derron The Ezawe, 14-1 others

2.00 FESTIVE SPIRIT TVÁTIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 2f 1 F32-212 FLYING GLIROWER (34) (8F) D Nicholson 5 11.5... 010-21 SALMON BREEZE (33) N Henderson 5 11.5 ... J R Kara 30-5 BANK AVENUE (18) Mis J Pimas 5 10 12 W Mission 80 BURFORDS FOR SCRAP (24) R Delin 4 10 12 63-60 SMMmORELLO (19) N Twitton-Ones 5 1.0 12.0 Bridgerolm 2 NORBELL (17) P Norbots 7 1.0 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ L Committee (7) OPFO-33 LADY HIGH SHEJORT (20) T Foster 6 1.0 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 4200-03 PANLONA (22) R Rome 6 10 7 \_\_\_\_

BETTING: 5-2 Kerbal, 3-1 Flying Gastrer, 7-2 Salmon Breeze, 8-1 San morello, 12-1 Bank Avenue, 16-1 Pantove, Ledy High Sheett, 20-1 other 2.30 BOXING DAY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m 110yds 008P-P5 MORDAY CLUB (28) (0) / Tuck 12 11 11. 445-P42 CORRESIDER (2) (0) / Smyth-Oabourne 12 11 11. 3 621243 CRAFTY CHAPLAIN (10) 60) D McCars 10 11 6...

A3-3 DAKTE'S WEW (USA) (8) P Hotge: 8 112 ...... D G\*Soffres - 8 declared -- 5 CHARGE 7-4 Sepresheet, 5-2 Danks's View, 7-2 Commiss, 5-1 Crafty Chaptein, 14-1 Monday Clab, 20-1 Stream John 3.00 MISTLETOE STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500

added 2m 110yds 41- DUBLIN FREDDY (315) (D) Mass Venetia Williams 5 11 11... 1 THE LADY CAPTAIN (20) D Room 4 11 6 \_\_\_\_\_ D Gallagher MINLLAF Mrs A Woodrow 4 11 4... 244- MY BUSTER (252) Mas 6 Hat 4 11 4 \_\_\_\_ SELE ME G Hutbord 4 11 4 \_\_\_\_ SROCAB J Galond 4 11 4 \_\_\_\_ \_P Hide ENDOW 4 Jescop 5 10 13... HOT 'N SAUCY A Jones 4 10 13. UCONTINE PERK (15) Mes C Carce 4 10 13 .... I Lawrence MASCE STRAIT (8) Mes A Weg 4 10 13 .... I Commiss (7) SWEET MOUNT (15) N Twistor-Davies 4 10 13 5-8 MAGGE STE

Twoce a hunties source in 1995-96, POTTER'S BAY is unbeaten after three runs over lenges and is set to extend the sequence to four, David Nicholson's runner hasn't beaten a great deal at Huntingdon (twee) and Sandown, where he accounted for solitary rivel Triple Witching by a length but there is better still to come from the seven-year-old and his turn of foot on see off. Milister Drum and Greenback, Mister Drum has landed three of his four chaeses, finishing second to Lively Knight at Huntingdon in the other and, being a from runner, will be well at home on this track, Greenback, who won eight hundle races in 1994-95, missed ast seeson. He is on a hist-trick but will find this much tougher than when winning at flaunton and Folkestone, as will Sublimise Fellow than when he scored at Hereford and Southwell he was unplaced at Bangor in between.

Selection: POTTER'S BAY

Minimum weight: 10st. Your handleso weight: Ealing Court 9st 18s.

BETTING: 11-4 Mytter's Cholon, 4-1 Lessdowne, 5-1 Tim, 6-1 Nick The Benk, 7-1 Castle Courage 8-1 Viura, Colomby Boy, 12-1 others

8-1 Vium, Colonory Boy, 12-1 others

FORM CURDE

Despite lop weight, MYTTON'S CHOICE, a consistent type, can gain a well deserved return to vinning form after three seconds and a third since his successful reappearance at Chepstow in October. He was basten only a longth and a quarter and a length by Belanak and Karshi (winner since) at Werwick - Caette Courageous some way back in seventh - and should last our the trip which he tackes for the first brine. Lamadowse has also been running well and won ower stightly further at Newbury in October in between seconds to Imperial Vintage (over lences) at Newson Abbot on his return and behind Gysart at Wincarton and last force for the second force on a return or Chepster test time.

#### contage of appears placed Lat. Zon of Set let heat care (Stiffrinal priced where: Desert Orchel 1-2 (1990) Top Jackey: A Dunewoody - Design Ducker (1969 & 1990), Dischard (1969) Alderbrook waits for

Kempton may be rohbed of a former Champion Hurdler from its Christmas meeting with Alderbrook unlikely to make his reappearance tomorrow unless the ground eases. It raises the prospect of Alderbrook, champion in 1995. travelling in Leopardstown on 19 January to underline his

the rain

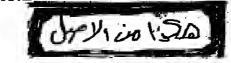
Cheltenham credentials. His trainer, Kim Bailey will walk the course before making a decision but his assistant Alex Hales said; "He's 100 percent and we're totally happy with him but he won't run if the ground is any quicker than soft. "If he doesn't run there he

could go straight to the Irish Champion Hurdle but Kim and owner Ernie Pick will discuss that if he doesn't run on Jason Titley has landed the

plum spare ride nn Jodami in the Rowland Meyrick Handicap Chase at Wetherby today. The Irishman's agent Graeme James approached trainer Peter Beaumont when it became clear other jockeys could not commit themselves to being at Wetherby to take the place of currently sidelined Mark Dwyer on the 1993 Gold Cup winner.

ENGAGEMENTS 1st part 2nd prof 1230 N Sas 1 15 West 3.05 M Res 1.05 Harr 3.10 Sedg 3.26 M Rts 1230 Hart 120 Wei 330 Sedg 235 N Re 2.45 Kemp 12,30 Hun 2.35 M Res 1.10 Sed 2.00 Novt 2.35 N Re 3.05 M Res 3.00 Wes 12.40 Sedy 3.15 Wes 2.35 Have 3,20 Wes 126 M Rus 12,40 Seq 120 Web 12,30 Hard 3.15 Weet 2.30 We 12.40 Sody 1.00 Hant 1.00 Place 1.35 M Res





### Call kept under wraps

DAMIEN LYNCH

Ireland will have to wait to see if Imperial Call has retained his old magic as the Gold Cup winner was yesterday pulled out of Leopardstown.

The seven-year-old's tramer, Fergie Sutherland, said his stable star had not recovered ful-

"He suffered some bad bruises at Punchestown. The superficial injuries have eleared up but he is still bruised," Suther-

Imperial Call, a warm favourite to retain the Gold Cup in March, is now expected to

HEREFORD

1.05 Tristram's Image 1.35 Dragonmist 2.05 Speedwell Prince 2.35 The Brewer 3.05 Ardent

13 /UCOF4 ARIOSO (SB) J Needrom 8 10 7.
14 FORPPP LILLY THE FILLY (S) bits 8 Woong 5 10 7.
15 30-0 LOVE THE BLUES (82) (BF) D Nicholson 4 10 7.

3 SLEPPERY Fox (24) W SM Turner 4 10 7 P

- 10 declared -

### Decision - 10 decision - 1

MINCE PIE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

Leopardstown in February.
The Christmas meeting will be headlined instead by Dano-

li, who will be oul today to repair some of the damage done Saturday's Ericssoo Chase at to his reputation by a fall al Fairyhouse at the start of the month. Tom Foley, Danoli's the horse in the right frame of ly from a fall at the final feoce mind and he will need to be if when he looked set to win on his seasonal debut at Pua-chestown earlier this month.

He is to repel the challenges of Jeffell, The Carrig Rua and England's Land Afar in the Denny Gold Medal Chase.

"As far as I am concerned the most important thing is that Danoli jumps well. If we get beaten, even beaten a long happy enough." Foley said. "We've got plenty of schooling

have his pre-Cheltenham run in the Hennessy Gold Cup at Leopardstown in February. into him since he fell at Fairy-house and he jumped really well when we took him to Gowran Park on Friday. He's really well in himself."

Another of Ireland's Cheltenham heroes, Klairon Davis, faces 11 rivals in the McCain Handicap Chase tomorrow. The winner of the Queen Mothtrainer, is confident that he has er Champion Chase will have most to fear from the highly-rat-

ed Merry Gale.
On Saturday, in Imperial
Call's absence, Dorans Pride
could emerge as a serious challenger for the Gold Cup. The former champion stayers' hurdler was extremely impressive when beating Paul Nicholls' See More Business to win the way, and he jumps well I'll be Drinmore Chase at Fairyhouse, happy enough." Foley said, the same race in which Danoli

	of scho				WILLIAM DELLO	•
5	0454-5F	ICE MAG	C (Si) F Yardey 9	10 11		ŀ
7	0100-4P	JUNO'S C	ROSS (20) A J WA	Bon 7 10 12.	O (a)	1
ĝ				Treature-Daniels	# 8 Thomas (5) & 8 10 12 .C U	
88	TTING: 8-4	Speedings			Decreased 5-1 Cap-	

Love 3.35 Swan Street	tain Stockford, 7-1 Austion Beld, Kino's Cross, 15-1 others
INSPECTION 7.86AM  GOING: Good.  Right-hand course with 300yd run-in.  Course is N of city on AAS. Hereford station Im. ADMOSSION: Carb S 12: Tamersalis 28; Course enclosure 55. CAR PARK. Free.	2.35 BLANDFORD BETTING NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 1f 1 6880F MGAR 5000 (8th 8 Proce 5 11 11
BLINERED FIRST TIME: Patheck Covalier (2.05), Nordigerosa (3.25); Country Lover (visor, 1.05), High Daniels (visor, 2.05). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Captain Stockford (2.05) won at Hereford on Friday. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Quiet Mistress (1.35) has been seen.	3 604-56 SLEMM ANNIEC (20) P Richard 5 11 7
191 miles by W Bethell from Arnold, Humbersde.	10 652323 MR POPPLETON (20) R Brosseton 7 10 5 L Harrey

7 4/1525 RAMPATS ROOST ROO (20) 87 6 Jones 5 13 0 P Micko
8 600-300 SAMP (27) 9 Saley 5 10 73 D
B 3502 THE DESCONESS (20) Men A King 5 10 9 Jan 28 Men
10 552223 MR POPPLETON (20) 9 Benerator 7 10 5 L l
11 043-PO 80934 SANT (20) 11 toyles 7 10 3 D J Rootes
12 05-04 SANTEN PROE (2) 10 toyles 4 20 3 D J Rootes
13 024-000 THE BREWER (20) 1 Tok 4 20 3 D J Rootes
14 000-004 STORM THERE (20) 0 Melor 5 10 0 E Husber
14 sections 4 20 3 D J Rootes

	3.05	TOTE NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3m 1f 110yds
1		LUGS BRANDIEAU (14) M Sensityck 7 11 10 L Harvey
2	0/5840-8	ANDERT LOVE (20) D Nichtigon 7 11 0 Mr & Thornton (5)
3	69254P	KING'S SHILING (USA) (20) H Ober 9 11 1 length Other
4	5520-51	CEREDWEN (20) (CD) T Greetward 0 11 1
5	5PPP-U2	THE WHOLE HOG (20) K Baley 7 11 0 Mr II Woldey (7)
0		JUST ONE CANALESTO (17) (CD) A Trusters-Dames 8 11 C
		C Lievalien
_		BARAN MARKET BARA LC. BARAN BARAN BARAN AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND A

١	(CLASS G) £3,000 added 3m 2f	= 15 declared -
ł	1 2320F-0 WHITEBONNET (31) C Estaton 0 11 0 C Unwellyn B	Minimum weight: 10st. True handless weight: Absoluting 9st 12h.
ı	2 CP6-623 QUIET MESTRESS (7) W Berhell 6 11 11.Mr R Thornton (5) B	BETTING: 5-1 Ardout Love, 11-2 lings Strannigum, 6-1 Caridoso, 7-1 Just
ı	3 4340-04 KHATIR (CAN) (B) M Pipe 5 11 8	One Caraletto, 8-1 The Whole Hog, Cool Character, 12-1 others
ı	4 522-053 STRIKE-A-POSE (10) 8 tiewellyn 8 11 6	3.35 HUGHES CATERERS HANDICAP HURDLE
ł	5 532231 DRAGONMIST (29) 0 Burchel 6 11 2	3 3E HUGHES CALEMENS HAMDICAP HUNDLE
ı	6 4/200- CHELY LAD (392) R Arches 5 11 1	(CLASS F) £4,500 added 2m 3f 110yds
ı	7 60060 MY SHENARDOAH (8) (8F) H Olver 5 10 12lecqui Oliver	1 453-132 NORDIC BREEZE (50) (847 M Pipe 4 11 12
ı	8 6-50350 AWESTRUCK (17) 8 Preece 6 10 1	2 213-4P2 RAMSDENS (41) (BF) H Twiston-Danes 4 11 10_C Llewellyn
1	9 SEPTEP STRUCTON PLYER (244) H Hours 6 10 0	3 320(33 FLEIR DETAL CON W.G.M. Turner 5 11 4
ı	- 9 declared -	4 40-5141 ALLOW (27) (D) 8 Lievellyn 5 11 3D J Kavannejli (5)
ı	Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Stratton Flyer 9st 13th.	5 212-P53 DAILY SPORT GIPL (10) & Lieucelly 1 7 11 0 htr J L Lieucelly 1
ı	BETTING: 7-4 Dragounist, 4-1 Quiet Mistress, 9-2 Khatir, 6-1 Whiteboonst,	8 85-5265 SWAN STREET (NZ) (14) C Many 5 10 7 Maybe (3)
ı	8-1 Strike-A-Pose, 10-1 My Shemendowh, Chilly Lad, 16-1 others	7 1 ZESTI (22) 7 Clement 4 10 4
1		8 00545-4 VISCOUNT TULLY (15) C. Incleson 11 10 2 Miss 5 Jackson
١	2.05 PLUM PUDDING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS	9 -250203 BRIGHT SAPPHINE (3) D Burchell 10 10 0
ı	E) £4,500 added 2m	10 150336 BATTY'S ISLAND (48) 8 Preson 7 100
ı	- CARLO ANDROVA CARGO AND	11 003450 AUVILLAR (USA) (36) J Parke 8 10 0

#### LINGFIELD \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

W. WEE

Christer!

17. 5. 1. 17.

2 15 S

HYPERION vescence 2.20 Passage Creeping 2.50 Bon Secret 3.20 Wottashambles

GOING: Standard. GOING: Standard.

STALLS: Inside, except one sule (outside).

IRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5f & 6f.

Left-bund, shurp rourse (Equitrack surface).

Course is south-east of town on B2028. Lingfield station (served by London Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members \$13, 7attersells: 58. CAR PARK: Club &3; remainder five.

BLINKERED FIRST THEE: Oaken Wood (1.20); Fancy Design upon 200. Code Red (1.20); sign (visor, 2.20). Code Red (visor, 3.20). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Heavenly Miss (1.20)

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN MALES HEAVING A WORLD AND A CONGRESS TO THE WORLD AND A CONGRESS AND A

12.50 EPIPHANY CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV I) £3,450 added 1m 2f (AM)
1 050516 CEDEZ LE PASSAGE (FR) (12) K Cumingum-Bount 59 9... 400-232 BAROSSA VALLEY (13) P Buder 5 9 5 \_\_\_\_ D Sees 630003 SLEP JÁG (15) R Harnon 3 9 0.\_\_\_\_\_ Dene 506060 HATTA SUNSHIRE (USA) (30) (CD) A Moore 0 8 9.\_\_

40-0000 NORTHERM CHIEF (34) J Culinan 6 8 9 Y Statton 0 5 40-ULUD NORTHERN CHIEF (34) J Cultrum 5 8 9 V Stattery 0 5 125035 HOW COULD-1 (142) Mix B Macauley 3 7 13 J Quien 3 - 0 declared - 0 declared - BETTING: 5-2 Codicz La Passage, 11-4 Barrossa Valley, 3-1 Stp. Jg. 5-1 Now Could-1, 10-1 Hotta Sunsblue, 25-1 Northern Chief

1.20 MARY & JOSEPH NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2YO 6f (AW) 26A540 ROYAL ORCHED (65) R Hamon 8 7. Dune O'Nell 7
143501 HEAVENLY MISS (6) (0) (0) J Bidger 9 5 (7cd \_ \$ Sanders 1
30222 THE WOANDOTTE NIN [1.3] R Holimbrad 9 3 ... W Ryen 0
00060 COUNTLESS TIMES (15) W Marr 8 0 ... A Clink 3
000 QAIGEN WOOD (42) N Collegian 8 1 Jagdeb Callinore (7) 4 B
0000 SILAND PRINCE (51) N Calegian 8 1 Jagdeb Callinore (7) 4 B
00000 MYSTERY (37) 5 Don' 7 10 ... J Quian 2
000000 MYSTERY (37) 5 Don' 7 10 ... D Salt (7) 5

— 7 declared — Machine Wystey 7st 10b. Two handlesp weight Mystey 7st 10b. Two handlesp weight Mystey 7st 10b.
BETTING 7-4 The Wysendols iss. 9-4 Herwoody Miss, 7-2 Royal Ordini, 10-1 Counties Times, 12-1 Mystery, Oalon Wood, 14-1 Island Prince

1.50 MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2YO 7f (AW)

**SNOW REPORT** 

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BETTING: 4-6 Effervencence, 9-4 Hever Golf Mover, 6-1 Sours, 12-1 Lily

2.20 SANTA CLAUS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,100 added 1m (AW) 650000 HEVER SOLF ENGLE (52) T J Houghton 3 8 13 \_D Hollands (7) 9 00000 LITTLE PERSONS (23) T lones 3 8 13 \_ R Persons 4004/03 REVER SERIE (FR) (23) S Knight 4 8 9 \_\_\_\_\_ XF Byon 2 0 BROUGHTONE RELISH (15) W Musson 3 8 8

0-05066 FANCY DESIGN (87) P Machel 3 8 8... 1 Hover Gotf Engle, 10-1 Georgie Boy, 14-1 Fancy Deelge, 20-1 others 2.50 EPIPHANY CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,450 added 1m 2f (AW)

lete. 12-1 Uord, 15-1 others

3.20 REINDEER HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,450 added 2m(AW) 55/5010- CAVENA (489) (CD) B Gaham 0 9 1. \_\_\_\_ Date O'Nell 5 550343 CODE RED (23) W Mur 3 9 D.

Area Last Lwr Upp Forecas

100% 14.12 60 90 Overcast 100% 14.12 90 140 Unsettled

75% 18.12 10 50 Cloudy, snow 100% 14.12 20 35 Snow, colder 100% 20.12 5 30 Snow

100% 23.12 20 100 100% 23.12 40 135 95% 20.12 70 295

100% 22.12 140 165 Cloudy, snow 95% 22.12 150 180 Cloud/snow

40003 HEVER BOLF MOVER (5) T J Naughton 8 9 \_\_\_\_ D Holland 1 Thomas Cook

Around the resorts

ITALY

SWITZERLAND

UNITED STATES

sees Fee

#### HYPERION

1.00 The Mine Captain 1.30 Novan 2.00 Wes River 2.30 Lance Armstrong 3.00 Furletto 3.30 Out On A Promise

GOING: Good to Soft:

GOUNG GOUNG OF THE STATE OF THE sou trisgred, 3.00\. ERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DESTANCÉ EUNNERS: Ballyline (1,00) sent 262 miles by W Kenap from Duns, Borders.

JUMPING COURSE NOVICE HICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2m 4f 110yds 02211-3 THE MINE CAPTAIN (24) (0) 0 Shewood 9 11 10 ..... | Chicago | Control | Cont ACCORAGE TORSE ASSEST CLAD & Forces 6 100 ... 

SECTION: 2-1 Messany's Choice, 12-4 The Mine Captain, 6-1 Holy War down, 6-1 Bullyline, Willie Maholt, 16-1 Hangaver, 14-1 others

1.30 PLYVINE CATERING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 3m 1f | C-1-1322 | PATHER SHC (12 0 Strevous STR 17 | 132-60 460006E ASPROVED (8) P. Johnson 0 11.5 | J. Oubsine B 2 132-60 460006E ASPROVED (8) P. Johnson 0 11.5 | J. Pathon 1 11.0-1 | Pathon 1 11.

— 8 decient — BETTMO: 6-4 Pather Sig, 9-4 Noyen, 5-1 The Sky Padra, 6-1 Kaedisana, 6-1 Gaorge Ambierd, 12-1 Wisse Wender, 20-1 others

2.00 HARRY BROWN MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £20,000 added 2m 

115224 TIME WON'T WAIT (232) (D) R Philips 7 118. 

	7	34125-4	WE NVEN	(19) <b>(1</b> ) (14)	rs 7 10 8	ەب	
	8	4-26433	HOUGHTON	(22) W Septe :	LO 10 0	Jib & Best	te (7) 8
ŀ	9	P50-5P3	Avecto bit	A Fotes 6 2 - 9 deciso	00		d plant
Ministrative growth The managery weights Houghton Bit 5th, Vergio Bit 11th							
•	BETTING: 5-2 Combries Challenge, 3-1 College Bay, 4-1 Thumbs Up, 6-1						
)					es River, 12-1		•
-	1	30	HAGUE	FASTEN	RS NOVE	CE HU	RDLE
	۷	الالك	(CLASS	E) £3,00	D added 3	m 1f	
		20 2017		-			

3.00 DUNSTALL RIMPING AGAIN SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2m 250-277 FURNITIO (IN SIF) M Hammond 511.3 R Sanithy 

C2/ SPANAIN ANA (SISO) (822) 1 Singa-Osbourus 5 10 11.

4 TE AND (14) M Pos 4 10 12.

D-04 TRE TRE TOO (27) A Carol 4 10 12.

SISON SISON (14) 7 WHI 4 20 12.

M Blood SISON (14) 7 WHI 4 20 12.

M Blood SISON (14) (87) Mins J Bover 5 20 7

3.30 BOKING DAY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2m 

- B declared -Alon Set 12t. SETTING: 5-2 Yet Again, 7-2 Study The Costs, Yubrales, 6-1 Rangilliu 8-1 Cat On A Promise, 10-1 Shifting Moon, 14-1 others

Minimum weight; 10st, True handings weights: Banntown Bill 9st 5lb, Wood-lands Carbino 7st 3b. SETTING: 9-4 Seven Towers, 6-1 by House, 7-1 Une Val, Church Laur, 6-1 Audre Laval, 10-1 Diamond Fort, 12-1 others

2.35 BRUCE AND JOE CARR NOVICE H'CAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 1f

5/425-24 RANDOM RARVEST (34) (85) lats M Reveloy 7 11.10 LP Name 1272-43 PEARL'S CHOICE (10) J McCorrocine 6 11.4 ... D J Motifat /110/-04 MAYBE O'CERADY (23) W Connection 7 11.2 ... M Saulth PSP66-1 MarVinery Marker (23) P Chestrology 7 11.1 ... A Saulth (24) Restriction 7 11.2 ... R Saulth (26) 10 Mrs P Sy 5 11.0 ... R Marker (27) P Chestrology 7 11.1 ... A Saulth (26) 10 Mrs P Sy 5 11.0 ... R Marker (27) P Chestrology 7 11.0 ... R Marker (27) 11.0 ... R Marker (27) P Chestrology 7 11.0 ... R Marker (27) 11.0 ... R Marke

8 4-214 1004 GARGARN HOTEL (15) P DESCRIPT TO 10 12 M SCRIPTS (15) P DESCRIPT TO 10 10 M SCRIPTS (15) P DESCRIPT TO 10 10 M SCRIPTS (16) P DESCRIPT TO 10 10 M SCRIPTS (16) P DESCRIPT TO 10 M SCRIPTS (16) P DESCRIPTS (16) P DESCRIPT TO 10 M SCRIPTS (16) P ROTAL PARIS (16) P RES S STRIPTS (16) P ROTAL PARIS (16) P RES S STRIPTS (16) P ROTAL PARIS (16) P ROTAL P

3.05 SANDILANDS HOLIDAYS MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

ACERSUS DULGES (731) M Crapmen 5 11 5 W Worldington

| ACERBUS DULESS (731) M Creption 3 11 5 11 7 Pages 100-3 APRIL SEVENTH (37) J Novike 5 11 5 12 7 Pages 201 BURRI (307 (246) J Pages 4 11 5 12 5 11 5 14 MeCanthy 332-0 CAST OF THOUSANDS (24) C Egronn 5 11 5 11 5 14 MeCanthy 305-24 DENHAM HELL (24) C March 5 11 5 15 15 16 March (3) SERVETTE COUNTY J J O'Nell 5 11 5 18 MeCanth (3) SERVETTE COUNTY J J O'Nell 5 11 5 18 MeCanth (3) Philips

3.35 CHRISTMAS NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS 6) £2,200 added 2m 1f 11.0yds

\$3.65.11 BRAINELES WAY (44) (0) Mrs M Review 7 11 6... P Neves B FREST GOLD J Wherton 7 11 3... V Smith UNDOWNSTERNESCURADINA M Bodby 4 11 0... J A McCarthy 106-1421 GERWALLY (20) (2) 8 Muray 5 10 12... A Machine GERWALLY (20) (2) 8 Muray 5 10 12... Daniel Bysse 0 MADLARK (12) (85) J Nester 4 10 11... Daniel Bysse 0 OS MADLARK (12) (85) J Nester 4 10 11... Daniel Bysse 0 OS PAST MASSER (USA) (8) S Golfing 8 10 11... J Neglec (3) PAST MASSER (USA) (8) S Golfing 8 10 11... J Neglec (3) 0 000-PP WOODLANDS LAD TOO (8) PPECHANIC 4 10 11... R Nedlecy 0 OS PPECHANIC 4 10 11... R Nedlecy 0 OS PPECHANIC 4 10 11... R Nedlecy 0 OS PPECHANIC 4 10 11... A S Smith 6405 S MARE DRIVE (20) K Morgan 4 10 8... F Leeby (3) GARS AND AND EAST OF THE STATE OF

13 PPPE2/4 TM M CLOVER (414) Notion 7 103.

14 0000-5 MODSA SOUND (15) L Lungo 6 10 2 Den 15 5440-55 TARGET LINE (15) Mrs 5 South 6 10 2 R Willed

hally, 10-1 Pour's Choice, Mister Trick, Monkson, 12-1 others

### 35P/1FP- DOW'T LIGHT UP (267) Mass V Williams 10 11 2,Darak Byrne

12.30 Chorus Line 1.00 Oakbury 1.35 Rosencrantz 2.05 ky House 2.35 Mister Trick 3.05 Denram Hill 3.35 Brambles Way PRECAUTIONARY INSPECTION 8.30AM

OING: Good, Good to Soft on Chase course in straight. Right-hand, sharp, undulating circuit, Run-in of one furious,
Course is east of town on ASS1. Market Rasen station (Lin-coin. Grimshy line) 1m. ADMISSEON: Chib £12; Trutersalis 58 (APs who are members of course's Jubice Club £4); Silver Ring 55 (Jubilee Club OAPs 52.50). CAR PARK: picnic areas £2, rest

free.
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lord Vick (2.35).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG DISTANCE RUNNIERS: Tread The Boards (1.00),
Out Emiling (1.35), & Bauntown Bull (2.05) have been sent 250
miles by M Pipe from Nicholashayne, Devon.

12.30 EBF NOVICE CHASE QUALIFIER (CLASS D) £5,500 added mares 2m 1f 110 yds

5050 CALL ME BLACK (308) M Hammond 7 10 12 8 Greation (7) 2105-14 HEMIRETTA HOWARD (21) (8F) Mrs D Haine 8 10 12 400P04 0LD BETSY (238) Mrs S Smith 6 10 12 P PRIMITIVE PENNY (90) Mrs () Hoine 5 10 11 ....

= 5 declared = BESTMC: 4-6 Henriettz Howard, 4-1 Chorus Line, 5-1 Call his Black, 8-1 Old Boley, 25-1 Primitive Pessy

1.00 I. AND G. COOK SELLING HCAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,100 added 2m 1f 110yds O-DALES MINISTER'S MADAM (LT) (D) J Houle 5 11 0 ... J A McCarthy V 24/4-P TREAD THE BOARDS (19) (RF) M Pioc 5 11 10 ... B Moore (7) a 5 11 8.

DOGORT STRAND (306) 0 Bonnan 5 11 2 \_\_\_\_\_ M Brunnen
1 TOULSTON LADY (13) 1 Wherein 4 11 1 \_\_\_\_ P Riven
06300-2 WEATHER ALERT (20) (ED) K Morgen 5 11 0 \_\_\_\_ A 6 Swith
023-0-9 SHARRHORY (7) Max I. Sactish 4 10 13 \_\_\_\_\_ F Lowby (3) 12 O-00PPO WOODLANDS EMERRY (8) P Printerd 5 10 0 Political A Seeking - 12 declared - Minkows weight 10st. Time handkap weight Woodlands Energy Set 30s. BETTING: 4-1 Minister's Manham, 9-2 See Bod, 5-1 Trend The Bourds, Foolston Ledy, 6-1 Weather Alert, 8-1 Dugant Strand, 10-1 others

12E ROSELAND GRADUE.

1.35 ROSELAND GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £6,500 added 2m 3f 110yds 

11 2028-3\* SUDDEN SPIN (8) (3F) J Nonan 0 10 8 \_\_\_\_ B Gratius (7)
12 1228-9\* MANDERE (24) Mrs Mema Junes 5 10 7 \_\_\_\_ Dorsk Byrne
13 512609\* MANDE YAMB (28A) (825) I Glove 8 10 1 \_\_\_\_ R Manley
14 222-15 YOUNG RADICAL (58) June 8 Upon 4 10 0 \_\_\_\_ D Month 15 20504-0 TRISTAN'S COMET (200) (C) J L Henry 9 10 0 Cey Lewis (3)

SETTING: 11-4 Out Ranking, 4-1 Hipponour, 6-1 Rosencoustz, 10-1 Rai-Ras, Dani Isage, 12-1 Lord McMarrough, Sandan Spin, 14-1 others.

2.05 LINCOLNSHIRE NATIONAL HTCAP CHASE (CLASS C) £15,000 added 4m 1f 

—14 declared —
HETTING: 6-4 Intentions Way, 9-2 Alls Cheenmaithe, 8-1 Game Drive, 6-1
Gleavally, Austin Alice, Part Master, 14-1 First Gold, 16-1 others

00 SMALL FLAME (33) 0 Branner 5 10 3....

12.45 Samonid 1.15 Golden Helio 1.45 Celestial Choir 2.15 The Grey Monk 2.45 Easthorpe

2.15 ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £25,000 added 3m 1f 

3/1214-3 10 STREBONE (20) (C) 50) T Tale 10 10 12. - 6 deciated -BETTROR: 7-4 The Grey Mock, 7-2 Call III A Day, 4-1 Joriani. 8-1 Lo Stra-gors, 8-1 Arro Araga, 10-1 Scotton Banks

245 SUPERMASTER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

128-204 EASTHORPE (J.4) May H Knight 8 11 10 J F Thley 312-412/ GENERAL PERSHMA (815) CO) O Nicholon 1011 7.R Johnson 1016-11 EARRY JONER (26) (CO) S Knitismell 8 11 1 A Dobble P-55021 CUMBRIAN CHALLENG (43) (CO) T Emerby 7 110 JR Gandby -4 declared BETTING: 6-4 Eastly John, 7-4 Cambrian Challenge, 4-1 Easthorps, 6-1, Camaral Persiong

3.15 BOXING DAY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 4f 110yds 441-422 THE CAPTRAINS WISH (10) 0 Netroison 5 12 0 .... R Johnson

star Sere Set 12th, 54 Path Set 48, The Other Man Set 40.
BETTING: 9-4 The Captain's Wish, 5-1 Reflex Hammer, 8-1 Touch Vert,
7-1 Dent Perget Cartis, 8-1 Fillegree, Stly Money, 12-1 others

## **Clubs ready** for a new showdown

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT

England's senior clubs are digging in for yet another round of trench warfare with their governing body, this time over the Rugby Football Union's decision to change the promotion and relegation rules between the top two divisions of the Courage League. The fact that a final accord between the two sides on the main political issues arising from professionalism is now at

an advanced stage of legal re-

finement makes the latest out-

break of hostilities doubly ironic.
All 12 current first division clubs and a number of their colleagues in Courage League Two are objecting forcibly in last weekend o surprise RFU move to a four-down, two-up arrangement - the second season in succession that the goalposts have been shifted midway through a campaign. The original plan, also designed with a 10-team top flight in mind, had been based on a three-down, one-up system complete with play-offs.

With two of English rugby's traditional powers, Bristol and Gloucester, now in unexpected strife, the first division clubs are pressing for the 12-team top flight to be maintained - a means of restricting relegation to the bottom two in the table rather than the bottom third. "We've written to Twickenham to that effect and we're serious about it," said David Tyler, the Bristol general manager. "The decision taken by the competitions' sub-committee of the RFU at the end of last week

for principles here; the RFU are preaching reconciliation and togetherness on the one hand while on the other, they are making moves like this without the slightest attempt at consultation with the very clubs affected."

The RFU have been lobbied by some of the richer second division clubs, notably Richmond for two guaraoteed promotion places. They are unlikely to want to switch back again - the need to save face was a contributing factor in prolonging this year's conflict over financial manage-ment and control of broadcasting rights - but the timing of last weekend's announce ment has infuriated the clubs

every bit as much as the content. As usual in the hrave new world of professional rugby, the issues under dehate get more complex at every turn. Lurking beneath the row over relegation is the Welsh lobby, which wants to see a dramatic expansion of continental competition next season. Clubs like Cardiff are keen in play the Heinekea European Cup on a home-andaway basis, a move that would commit the most successful sides to between 16-20 matches.

"In my opinion, the European competitions are just about right as they are," said Tyler. "We could expand them slightly and still maintain a 12-team domestic league, but any move in donhle the amount of matches would clearly be incompatible." Moseley, of the second division, look like escaping punishment for playing an unregistered player. Andy Freke, in last month's defeat at Bedford, The League organisers have said came ont of the blue. It was a they do not intend punishing bombshell. We're standing up them for a genuine mistake.

#### Gibbs given chance to emerge again

Andrew Gibbs was handed the 10 British-based players in their launch his international come-match tour of Wales. back when he was picked at blindside flanker for Emerging lead a party that also includes Wales against the USA Eagles Welsh-born Mark Williams and

next Wednesday. first choice No 6 only for illness also included in the squad. with Llanelli, who he had joined from Newbridge in August. Nigel Davies, who captained Wales against France in September when he won his 28th cap, will lead an Emerging side that has nine Other full internaconals on duty.

Bath's back-row forward Nathan Thomas, who won his first cap as a replacement against South Africa earlier this month, gets another chance to impress along with the outstanding wing prospects Gareth Wyatt and Garan Evans. The American Eagles have chosen

chance on Christmas Eve to 30-stroog party for their four

current Bridgeod lock Cliff Gibbs returned from the Vogl. Receot Pootypridd resummer tour to Australia as the cruit. No 8 Rob Lumkong, is to delay his start to the season EMERGING WALES IN USA Eagus, Rochey Pa

EMERCANN WALES for USA Eagles, Rodney Parade, Newport, New York Days; M Banch, (Swandou); Z Evanis (Lingelly), M Taylor (Swandou); Z Evanis (Lingelly), M Taylor (Swandou); Z Evanis (Lingelly), M Taylor (Fortypedd); L Jarvin (Cardell), P John (Portypedd); M Rymont (Portypedd); J B Jandellas (Swandou), L Janesbo (Cardell), G Qualmont (Retrinoron), P Annold (Swandou), G Qualmont (Retrinoron), P Annold (Swandou), S Common (Retrinoron), H Harrises (Hestequina), L Jones (Cardell), B John (Jarvin), M Thomas (Battl), C Wyett (Danoll), Rephonements; J Lowis (Protypedd), S Common (Postport), H Harrises (Hestequina), L Jones (Cardell), B John (Jarvin), L Jones (Cardell), B John (Jarvin), L Jones (Cardell), H Mallon, Cardellas (Harrises of Aspont), E Schammen (Cardellas College), E Williams (Cardellas of Aspont), E Schammen (Cardellas of Aspont), E John (Cardellas of Cardellas), C John (Cardellas of Aspont), E John (Cardellas of Cardellas), C John (Cardellas of Aspont), E John (Cardellas of Cardellas of Cardel

#### Goulding fired up for 'friendly' with Wigan

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

For all the much-trumpeted charms of summer rugby, clubs cannot quite bring themselves to desert the deep midwinter entirely. Traditional Boxing Day fixtures have been such a reliable money-spinner that they have survived the revolution.

Coaches and players might not much have liked the idea of games in the middle of what is now their close-season when it was first mooted, but chairmen, chief executives and bank managers most certainly do. Hence the continuation of

the festive paltern, first established in 1905, of Wigan and St Helens playing each other the day after Christmas. You can pronounce the tradition intact. of course, but it is the seriousplayed at Central Park this afternoon that will be the proof of the Christmas pudding. Fans starved of nourishment

for the last few months will probably turn up this year - Wigan are predicting at least 15,000 but any sign that the game is be-ing played as a glorified friend ly will discredit it for the future. According to Saints' captain.

Bobbie Goulding, there is no danger of that. "Games between St Helens and Wigan are never friendlies," he said. "Any the wing. player going in thinking he can take it easy is going to get hurt. mountain of pride involved." St Helens will be without the

who came back battered from team Villeneuve last week.

the Australasian tour and would normally have welcomed a longer period of recuperation.

Against that, Saints will field a new signing, the former Auck-land Warriors pmp. Julian O'Neill, and the reserve team hooker, Alan Cross, makes his debut in place of the injured Keiron Cunningham.

With Shaun Edwards still recovering from a knee operation and Henry Paul profitably engaged in rughy union, Wigan will field a balf-back partnership of Nigel Wright and Craig Murdock. They will outdo Saints by having all three of their new signings - "Doc" Murray, Ian Sherratt and Stephen Holgate - in action for at least part of

the match. New faces abound at Headingley this morning as well, when Leeds meet Halifax. All three of the home side's signings ness with which the fixture is from Sheffield are scheduled to play: Ryan Sheridan at scrumhalf, Dean Lawford in the oew position for him of hooker and Anthony Farrell on the bench.

Also among the substitutes will be two other newcomers in the former Hull winger, Paul Sterling, and the Australian prop, Jamie Mathiou. Neil Picehi, a New Zealaoder who was injured almost as soon as he arrived last season, re-emerges at loose forward, while Halifax welcome back St John Ellis on

Huddersfield, at home to Keighley, could give the prop There might not be any league

Neil Harmon, signed from

points at stake, but there is a

Leeds, a first run. In the most parochial derby of them all, Batley and Dewsbury at least have injured Chris Joynt and Joey the benefit of some match prac-Hayes, while there were others tice, as they both played French

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GOING: Good to Soft.

Left-hand oval circuit. Ron-in of 200yde slightly upbill.

Counce is north east of town on 21224 near junction of A58 and A1. ADMISSION: Club E12 (accompanied under-16s Iree):
Taitemails E7: Course E2 (cast, including up to 4 adults 56). CAR

TRICESSIS AT COMME SA (CARA, MICHOMAN UP to 4 MINISTRO). CARE
PARKE, FPC.
ELINKERED FIRST TIME: None.
WINNIERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYE: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNEER: Torch Vert (3.10) has been sent.
188 miles by N Waller from Kingston Lisle, Oxfordshire. 12.45 CHRISTMAS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 15 ADVANCE EAST (12) (D) M Dods 4 11 4.

= 7 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Dann Point, 4-1 Advance East, 5-1 Bollin Frank, 6-1 Mordic Prince, 7-1 Sementel, 8-1 Southern Cross, 16-1 Moraldi

POS2-32 CHORUS LINE (SS) P Beautyout 7 10 13 \_\_\_\_\_ B Gration (7) - S declared -

1.15 BOROUGHERIDGE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m

SETTING: Byons Guiden Halls, 15-8 Daring Past, 6-1 Mister Hove, 8-1 Cho-145 ST JOHN AMBULANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m

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11 Q00-00 THE OTHER MAN (19) Mas I Siddel 6 10 0 ....

# Kinnear's recipe for success

Poor Joe Kinnear. Today he suffers the hig Five-O for the second time in four days. No, that is not a prediction for Wimbledon's match against West Ham to-

day (having seen West Ham on Saturday, it is impossible to imagine them emulating Aston Villa's Sunday (eat), but recognition of the Wimhledon manager's 50th birthday

today.
When we met last week, to toast the occasion with a pre-hirthday drink. Kinnear was quick to put the landmark into perspective. "I'm pleased, thankful, to get there and be in good health. A lot of people don't. I lost my sister when she was 32. She died of cancer at a very young age. I lost a friend in Cyril Knowles who died very young. He also lost his natural father, and stepfather, when he was barely in his teens.

You do take stock," Kinnear said. "Everyone wants to get their half-century done, hat and pads on, 50 not out. But it is on you before you know it. Age seems to pass you by at times, you are working so hard. Sometimes you think 'I could probably have enjoyed myself more when I was younger', but you don't know

"I look back at my first cup final.

I was 20 years of age, playing for
Spurs [against Chelsea in the 1967 FA Cup final]. It's just a vague memory. I can more or less remember walking out of the tunnel and looking round at 100,000 people. Then I was just concentrating on the game. I remember walking up for my medal, then the euphoria after the match, jogging round with the tro-phy, then it's gone. The big hlow was missing the next day - the trip round on the open-top hus - as I had gone off to play for Ireland
"I look back and I've had 35 years

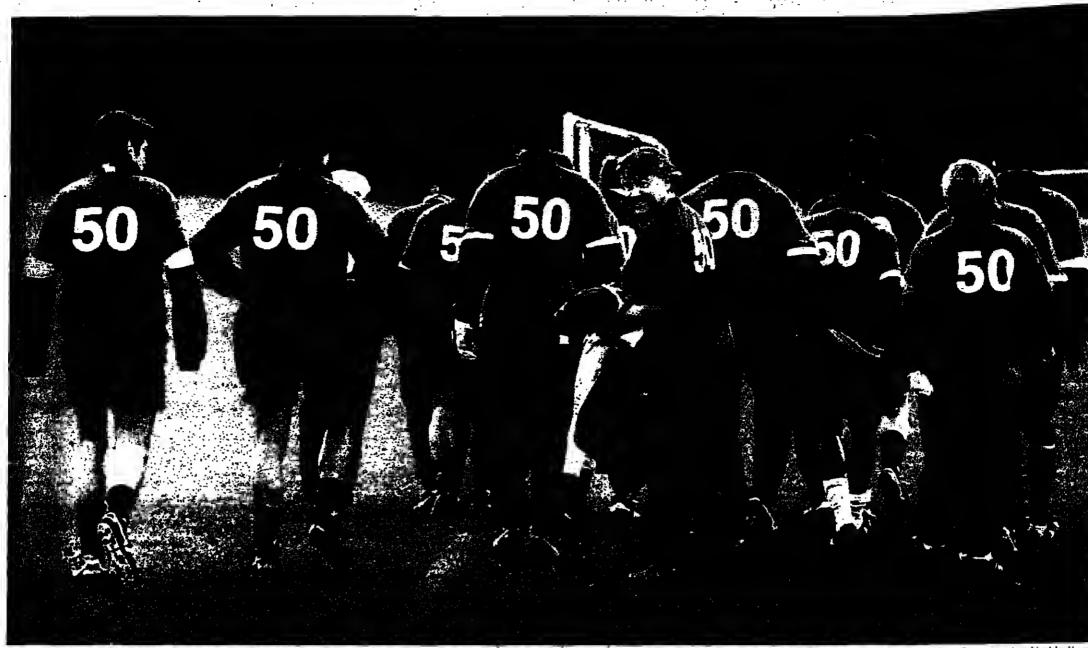
in the game, amazing really. At 15 years of age I went to Tottenham's youth team, I had 12 years there as a professional, and two more at Brighton. Then an achilles injury finished me. There's been a lot of changes, I've seen a lot of good things

and bad things."
Things are looking good for Kinnear at the moment. Wimbledon are high in the Premiership and Kinnear is in demand. "A hig club [Blackburn or Manchester City] came in for me two weeks ago. It would have made me financially secure. I turned it down. I have a great relationship with Sam [Hamman]. We have worked hard to be where we are. I have always thought we were a good enough team to win something. I believe in my players, we have beaten

"It's hard, I don't have the strength in depth. Without the Sky money Deao Holdsworth would have gone well before now. I've been able to add to the squad instead. But if I lose Oyvind Leonhardsen I don't have an experienced player to replace him. Clubs like Newcastle and Manchester United can go out and huv someone. But if we stay injury-free we have a realistic chance

of winning something."

It has been worse. "You should have seen what Doncaster was like when I was manager there. It was like a puh side - the chairman was even a publican. The biggest problem was finding the wages. He would come gave me £12,000. Ray Harford is supin and say: I can't pay you this week because we are playing away from home - we've got no gate money."



Wimbledon's players give Joe Kinnear a 50th birthday surprise yesterday by turning up at training with a cake, presented by Vinnie Jones, and specially printed T-shirts

HAPPY

game, but it worked.

he had acres of room."

Aston Villa v (4) Chelses - FC

Chelses FC

Last season 8-1

Last five League merches Aston Viller WANNAM Chelses

DIDLW.

Into the strengt was under he beVille manager this is brillery to make charges to a side in which Set articharges to a side in which Set artiart Miscount is easyn accorning great.

Chelses need to brush the or their sawn form and if himse is in he cause of the set of the country for the defence in clases of promister General. Shocking is measable again after suspension but subper Wise is still berned.

Mán Utd

Last five League metries; Notin Forest DUDLY, Man Und

DWDDW:
DWDDW:
DWDDW:
DWDDW:
Caretaker Pearce's only poser is
whether on loan Cough should start insteed of Roy. United, wather Peaker
(both), are likely to per May and Cary
Nextle at comp both each should

Infrarent as been received to the equal along with Antly Cole, who secret for the reserves in his consideracy game at the reserves in his consideracy game at the soul order states. But there games a state shall got the last three games.

I saw Chelsea against them the

following week. Sunderland get it down the left wing and cross it—and

who's diving in with his header, a clear header unmarked? Kevin Ball.

Bang, Goal, Terry Burton [Wimble-

don coach! comes in the following

day and says to me: 'See that goal,

Before we played Sheffield Wednesday I said this goalkeeper

[Kevin Pressman] mucks about with

"The players would say: 'The cheque's ain't gone in, gaffer. When are we going to get paid?' I'd say: 'We 're lucky. We've got a home game Saturday - you'll he paid Sunday.' "At the end of the season the chair-

man said to me: 'You've done a magnificent job keeping us up. I'd like to extend your contract.' I said: Tve got a year to go. Let's talk about

When I came back from holiday

#### 'if we can stay injury-free we have a realistic chance of winning something'

there were two faces I didn't recognise, They said: 'We're with the new consortium. Your chairman sold out. And by the way, Billy Bremuer's the new manager.' When I'd left for my holiday he was the manager of Leeds, but had since been sacked.

"I was on £25,000 a year - they posed to have come out of Blackburn with a quarter of a million. Times have changed and it shows the difference in clubs. When I left the secretary came running out and said to me: 'We want the car back.' I said: 'I've got to get home first. You'll have to come back down to London and pick it up.

"I was out of work for two weeks, then Bohby Gould rang me up and made me reserve team manager here. I met Sam. That was seven years ago. I've been here ever

The rest is mystery. How do Wimbledon do it? Preparation, organisation and hard work would appear to he the key. Over a small cider [he was driving], Kinnear let slip a few illustrations of why he spends hours watching matches and making notes. "I was so pleased the oth-

er week. We went to Sunderland and I said to them we have to worry about Ball. They said 'Kevin Ball?' I said Yes. To me he epitomises Sunder-land. Work rate, blood and thunder, wants another scar on his face. He's very dangerous arriving in the box if the right cross comes in he's not afraid to throw his head in.' I said to Vinne [Jones], you pick him up, let Robbie [Earle] and Leo [Leonhardsen bomh on. He and Vinne

close him down quick. Efan [Ekoku] did, took the ball off him and put it in the net. Great start. "A lot of goalkeepers start attacks. Peter Schmeichel

is one so, when he catches it, one of our forwards goes in and stands on him, blocks him. He starts mosning to the ref, the crowd start booing, but by then we're back on our tails and have picked everybody up. He ends up kicking it, it's a 50-50 knockdown \_ and we work hard You want to cut off the.

supply first. Against Black-hum I said to the full backs: 'If you do nothing else but press up on Gallacher and Wilcox, mark them tight and not allow them a cross. you have done a wonderful joh for us. Because that will out all the ser-

"So, Wilcox gets the ball, Cunningham gets close, Wilcox gives it hack to Le Saux. The midfield get close to their midfield, he's no op-tion but to whack it to Sutton. One centre-half will challenge him, the other will drop off and pick it up. Sutton's standing there with his arms out all frustrated and we've got

the ball. We did a professional job

on them. They had a lot of ball but never hurt us."

The same applied to Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup, but, at Villa Park ou Sunday, Cunningham made the sort of mistake that defeats every coach's planning. When the centre pair followed up with another error Wimhledon were drawn out of defence and well beaten. The long unbeaten run was over.

However, the prospects remain

#### 'When Alex Ferguson decides to retire Manchester United can give me a cali'

good. Most of the squad are signed until the next century, crowds have risen - above Southampton and landlords Crystal Palace - and the club remains solvent. "We've never been in the red, Sam's very proud of that." The only irritant is Merton Council's failure to support a move back to the borough.

Kinnear has had more helpful political rulers - like the Prince of Nepal, where Kinnear coached the

national side. He lent Kinnear his private plane and a pilot to fly along the Annapurna Mountains, "It's a prop joh," Kinnear recalled: "We are flying on our side along the mountains about 20 feet from Everest. It's a real change of pants job. I look at Bon-nie [his wife] and her knuckles are

white, Some experience,"
Kinnear made the most of his travels. He went elephant trekking while coaching in India, rode camels in Dubai and survived a riot in Malaysia. The bricks were landing around the dug-out then they start-ed oo the players. We headed for the dressing room."

Eventually, he came back with Dave Mackay to Doncaster, Now, after five years at Wimbledon, he is the second longest serving manager in the Premiership. "My ambition is to be here longer than Alex [Fergu-son]," he laughs. "When he decides to retire they can give me a call."

One can imagine him leaving for Old Trafford, but not for many other jobs. He has rejected the lure of Ireland and a fat hank halance. Wimbledoo has a place in his heart that could be matched only by Tottenham. In the meantime he is looking through a crowded holiday programme to the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final at Bolton on 8 January. That's the important one." Wembley, Europe, and silverware beckon.

#### had a right ding-dong throughout the Barnsley aim to bridge the ever-growing gap

Seventeen years ago today the Sheffield derby attracted nearly 50,000 spectators to Hills-borough, a record for the tormer Third Division. How the Football League could use a comparable clamour at the turnstiles today. More than two-thirds of its 72

clubs are showing a drop in support this season, with the average for the current Third (nee Fourth) Division down by almost 15 per cent. Set againsi a coutinuing upward trend in the Premiership, where crowds have increased by three per cent. the figures provide unhappy vindication for those whu predicted a widening gulf between the haves and have nots.

The self-styled elite might not be too enamoured by the prospect of Barnsley, with their 9.000 average, lowering the tone at the top level à la Wimbledon. Danny Wilson's side enter the second half of their season a point ahead of Bolton with a came in hand. Despite their reputation as Stoke's bogev team, a visit to the Victoria Ground will certainly test their mettle.

Stoke, well placed to push fur a play-off place again, will be boosted by the news that Mark Stein is to stay on loan from Chelsea for a second month. An England international will also pledge himself to them be-

Nationwide League
PHIL SHAW
fore kick-off, although Dominic
Cork, who flies to join Mike
Atherton's men in New Zealand early next year, is to be paraded as the latest recruit to the Potters' supporters club rather than beefing up the midfield.
The First Division's first

30,000 attendance of the season is expected at Maine Road. where Manchester City will have their work cut out to complete a double over Port Vale. City, who continue to be linked with the former Nottingham Forest manager Frank Clark, have won only twice in the last nine marches. Franny Lee is likely to monitor events from Barbados; a case, perhaps, uf fiddling while home yearns.

Vale are proving a formidable counter-attacking side away from home, reflecting great credit on John Rudge's resourceful stewardship in a 13-year reign during which City have gone through nine full-time managers (not to mention "temps" like Phil Neal). Rudge may, however, be without his top scorer, lifelong City supporter Tony Navlor, who has a

hamstring injury. Another team faring better on their travels are Wolves. Remarkably, they have gained twice as many points away from Molineus, from one less game. That is hardly deterring the public from parting with their money. Three years ago next Saturday they began a run of 70 successive home gates of 20,000 or more. Their opponents that day. Oxternoon. With both clubs in the play-off zone. Wolves anticipate a turn-out in excess of 27,000 for the first time since the match against Leicester in February.

Bradford City, whose 85 per

cent rise in crowds is easily the higgest in Britain, should be

close to capacity for the bottom-

versus-top meeting with Sheffield United. Bolton, down to second spot after eight games without a win, go to 24th-placed Grimsby in urgent need of points to go with the plaudits they are altracting. Although no club in the Second Division boasts a five-figure average, attendances are nearly nine per cent up. The top

two. Brentford and Luton, are both away today, giving Bury a chance to close the gap. A win over Crewe would keep alive the hizarre possibility of a club with fewer than 5.000 regular patrons swapping places with neighbouring Manchester City. Fulham, Third Division lead-

ers both at the gate and on the nitch, will expect to maintain their progress at Exeter's expense. Peter Shilton, who helped Levton Orient draw nearly 8,000 last Sunday, may actually suffer a slight fall-off for Northampton's visit as their legendary goalkeeper plays League match No 1,001. While that figure is normally associated with spotless carpets, Shilton will settle for a clean sheet, his 334th.



10 Bradford City v Shelfield Utd 11 Gransby v Bolton

Last season: 2-1
Last five League martches: Blackburn DDWDL: Newcastle DLDLD
Midfledor Filland flores a lare fitness
test (ankle), but Rovers will be boosted by return of their leaper Flowers
and centre-back Hendry. Shearer is
set to return to Ewood Park for the
first brie since his record £15m summer move to Tyreside, Ginola and
Gallaspie are Injury workes for Newcastle after Monday's 1-1 drawagainst Livepool.

Sheff Wed v

Last season: 1-0

Lest five League matches: Sheff Wed DDWDD; A reenal WWWDL:

Wed DDWDD; A reenal WWWDL:
Wednesday's "Writtingham" (gashed eye) could be forced to mess out. That could open the way for lites, to return to the side. Skipper Adems is back after, suspension for Arsenal and is expected to replace Linghan. Door returns to replace Linghan. Door returns to replace McGowen at right back, while Gentle is expected to continue to deputise for his suspended fellow Frenchman Vierra in midfield.

Last seeson: 2-1

16 QFR v Namech (12.0)

17 Residing v West Bromwich

18 Southend v Charlton (12.0) 20 Transmert v Huddersfield Second Division

23 Bournemouth y Bristol Res (12.0) .... Bristol City v Shrevsbury (12.0) ...... 26 Chesterfield v Rotherham (12.0) 27 Gillengham v Luton (12.0) 28 Marwell v Peterboraugh (12.0) 29 Phyrrough v Brendford 30 Wetford v Notes County (12.0) ...

35 Cambridge Utd v Scumhorpe 39 Chester v Rochdale .... - Doricaster v Scarborousi ...

- Wiggs v Darlington Premier Division

34 Berries y Mangheld (£.0) ...... 35 Brigation y Colonester (£2.0) 45 East Pile v St Mirren (2.0) 46 Morton v Clydebank. 47 Partick v Dondee ...

- Hereford v Swanses..... - Hull y Luncoln Bell's Scottish League

40 Aberdeen v Celfic ... 41 Dundee Und v Motherwell.

Second Division

Third Division - Albion Rosess v Forter

Other footpall thaves: Page 21



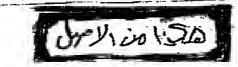


Liverpool v Loicester Last sesson: did not play Manager Evans is expected to retain an unchanged side as the leaders go looking to continue their recent free-scoring home form (nine goals in two games). Injury-hit teleesterare missgames). If uny first concentrate was ing the influence of their inspirational support. Watch, who underwent a famile operation last week. Whittow is also ruled out with a knee lightners injury white Grayson has a sight hamlottenbam v

Southampton ... Last season: 1-0 -Last five League matches: Tot-tentam (LWDO; Southampton

With Campbell and. Howells both having livisted anides in the 1-1 draw withing livisted anides in the 1-1 draw with Street Wed, the way could be clear for Scales to make his full debut far Spurs. Saams are still wayling to see if Le Tisseer (tright) is fit. Van Gobbel is set, to be reculted in defence after a one-match transin place of the injured Dyden. Neison in back in contention after a linee operation.

des Liembo, Vicient des Liembo, (vicient des Liembo, vicient des Liemb Wimbledon V West Ham Last Beason: 0-1
Last five League matches: Wanhiedds: DWWW. West Ham
DDLD:
Their 19 run unbegen run ended
by Via, Wardedon have been fur
ther his last a flux dug with
Politiscott and Earle among the
describes are same; vesterby. The
Manyhers laste geness without a
minor sufficient Downs and Hall as
well as Bonds, Lezarides and
Breache. Pour may be recalled.



Pick of the Day Pavarotti Returns to Llangollen 6.30pm C4

Patently very moved, Luciano Pavarotti (right, and his father - a surprisingly small man) returned this summer to the pretty Welsh town to sing at the Llangollen Festival. It was a sort of pilgrimage for the big man, since Llangollen was where Pavarotti first became inspired to sing in 1955, listening to the great Italian baritone, Tito Gobbi. His programme of songs includes works by Puccini, Verdi and Handel.





Film of the Day Vanya on 42nd Street 3.10pm C4

Superbly complex meditation on the nature of theatre – and the final film by Louis Maile (left). A group of actors come to a crumbling Manhattan theatre in their street clothes to rehearse Chekhov's Uncle Vanya - only for the rehearsal to become the play - and for the play, in the time-honoured manner of these things - to intertwine with their lives. A fantastic transposition of play into film, with Wallace Shawn and Julianne Moore excellent in the lead roles.

## **Boxing Day television and radio**

ite his <sup>i</sup>Oct<sup>oto</sup>

6.00 Children's BBC: Joe 90, 6.25 Santa and the Tooth Fairies, 6.50 Noddy, 7.20 Playdays, 7.40 Christopher the Christmas Tree, 8.00 Christmas Time! 8.30 Little Mouse on the Prairie, 8.55 Round the Twist, 9.20 A Flinistones Christmas

10.10 Suppl An American Tail: Fievel Goes West (Phil Nibbelink, Simon Wells 1991 US). The further Nibbelink, Simon Wells 1991 US). The further adventures of the pioneering carbon mice – here venturing into the Wild West (S) (4681 133).

11.20 Lyddie. Period children's drama from Canada about a young girl (S) (8639959). \*

12.50 News and Weather (30212404). \*

12.58 Regional News and Weather (35350881).

1.00 Neighbours (S) (58757065). \*

1.20 Just William (S) (30890539). \*

1.50 TREE News Servi News & Servi News & Control (Services 100).

1.50 MINI Never Say Never Again Orvin Kershner 1983

US). Sean Connery returns after a 12-year histus in what is an unacknowledged remake of the 1965 adventure Thunderball (S) (84193930). \* 4.00 The Wrong Trousers. Christmas would no longer be Christmas without Wallace and Gromit, and here they are – in Nick Park's Oscar-winning animated feature (R) (S) (336). \*

4.30 The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends. New series of animated Beatrix Potter animations, starting with "The Tale of Two Bad Mice" and "Johnny Town-Mouse" (S) (7121510). \*
4.55 Final Score. With Ray Shibbs (S) (8392336). 
5.15 News and Weather (5783997). \*

5.25 Regional News (6620510).

5.30 Tom and Jerry (R) (854065), 5.35 Neighbours (S) (147626), \* 6.00 PREFERE Willy (Simon Wincer 1993 US). Huge surprise hit about a troubled youngster (Jason James Richter) who befriends a captive killer whale at a nearby marine park (S) (24159355). \* 7.45 Winter on One (757268).

7.50 EastEnders (S) (655201). \* 8.20 2point4 Children (S) (828607). \* 9.00 One Foot in the Grave. Victor sees a ghost in the seasonal edition of the grumbly crumbly sitcom.

Rula Lenska is the guest star (S) (9775). \* 10.00 News and Weather (366171). \* 10.15 THE Sommersby (Jon Amiel 1993 US). Betterthan-expected remake of the French movie, The Return of Martin Guerre, updates the story to the American Civil War, Richard Gere Is cast as the Confederate soldier who returns home after six years at war, and whose wife (Jodie Foster) can't

quite accept that he is the same man who went away. Bill Pullman co-stars (S) (135572). \* 12.05 That The Graduate (Mike Nichols 1967 US). Homecoming college boy Dustin Hoffman is seduced by his parents' neighbour, Anne Bancroft in Nichols's classic generation gap sex comedy. Katherine Ross co-stars (834350).

1.45 Clive Anderson All Talk. Danny DeVito and Angus Deayton feature (R) (S) (8802060). \* 2.20 Weather (1747337). To 2.25am.

6.55 Esta Breakfast for Two (Alfred Santell 1937 US). Screwball comedy starring Barbara Stanwyck as a Texan heiress who uses her womanly wiles to turn

a carefree playboy (Herbert Marshall) into a no-nonsense businessman (S) (7917775).

8.00 Barbara Stamwycic Fire and Desire. Sally Field hosts this tribute (R) (S) (3226336).

8.50 EXECUTE: Queen of Montana (Allan Dwan 1954) US). Pretty scenery, dud script as pioneer Barbara Starnwyck defends her cattle against the injuns. Ronald Reagan co-stars (2133591).

10.15 Little Dorrit: Nobody's Fault (Christine Edzard 1987 UK). Mammoth, six-hour labour of love (from the novel by Charles Dickens) is showing – as in the cinema - in two parts (the second three hours shows tomorrow at 9.45am). The subject is money – largely the lack of it – and the superb cast includes Derek Jacobi, Alec Guinness, Cyril Cusack, Max Wall, Minam Margoyles - and Alan Bennett as a bishop (82160220). \* 1.05 Cinderella. Rossini's opera, with Italian mezzo-

soprano Cecilia Bartoli and the Houston Symphony orchestra (36775442).

3.45 Choir of the Year. The youth semi-final (5621713).
4.25 Ensi The Halian Job (Peter Collinson 1969 UK).
Some truly bizarre casting (Benny Hill and Noel Coward in the same movie) in the stuntpacked heist filck with the famous Mini chase seguings. Michael Caine char (1962) 5071. sequence. Michael Caine stars (90626607). \*
6.00 Euro 96: When Football Came Home (25862). \* 7.00 Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld UK (3881).

7.30 Mo: A Tribute to Mohamed Amin. Michael Buerk profiles the cameraman, who died aboard a hijacked Ethlopian Airlines jet (S) (591), \* 8.00 An Audience with Charles Dickens. Simon Callow narrates the court-scene from Dickens's Pickwick

Papers (S) (9201). \* 8.30 Swan Lake. Matthew Bourne and Adventures in Motion Pictures' beautiful and very funny ("You laugh and laugh all the way through - and then, at the end, you cry" says our Louise Levene) rethinking of Tchaikovsky's ballet, it hit the headlines thanks to the decision to have men dance the famous corps de ballet of swans (swans as an image of strength instead of willowy grace) and obvious comparisons of the stifled Prince with our own Prince Charles (82775). 10.30 Steptoe and Son Christmas Special (R) (211355).

11.15 Gogs. Plasticine animated pre-history (932046). 11.25 Fine Cut: Crumb. Terry Zwigoff's fine, award-winning portrait of counter-culture cartoonist Robert Crumb, the genius who gave us Fritz the Cat, Janis Joplin LP covers and all those "Keep on Truckin\* T-shirt illustrations (S) (15998201). \* 1.30 Esta The Seventh Victim (Mark Robson 1943

US). Genuinely creepy chiller from producer Val Lewton and starring Kim Hunter as a lass trying to save her sisters from the clutches of a group of devil-worshippers in New York City (6981447). 2.35 Weather (861 7008). To 2.40am.

#### ITV/London

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 Bananas in Pyjamas. 6.20 Barney and Friends. 6.50 Bug Alerti 7.30 News, Weather and Sport. 8.05 GMTV Review (7425881). 9.25 GMTV Cannonball Run II (Hal Needham 1983 US). Car races and star cameos in this silly sequel. With Burt Reynolds, Shirley MacLaine, Dom DeLuise, Jackie Chan, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jnr, and

Frank Sinatra (S) (17755341). \* 11.20 Survival Special (4812171). \* 12.20 Cartoon Time (9963626). 12.35 News, Weather (91354794). \*

12.50 Enter Funny Farm (George Roy Hill 1988 US). New York sports journalist, Chevy Chase, decides on a move to the country (S) (94520220). \*

2.45 The Willows in Winter. Follow-up to last year's

acclaimed adaptation of The Wind in the Willows. Based on the book by William Horwood - itself a sequel to Kenneth Grahame's original classic novel - and voiced by Rik Mayali, Alan Bennett, Michael Palin and Michael Gambon (S) (7869256). \*

4.10 Home and Away Special (R) (5) (6435862). \*
4.40 News, Weather (4969713). \*
4.50 MISSITHE Secret Garden (Agnieszka Holland 1.994 UK). Lovely looking and imaginative re-teiling of Frances Hodgson Burnett's children's

classic. Kate Maberly plays the young girl packed off to stay with her sickly cousin in Yorkshire – who discovers a secret walled garden. Maggie Smith shines as the housekeeper (84907591). \* 6.45 The Russ Abbot Show Christmas Special (614510). \*

7.30 Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich (317). \* 8.00 The Bill. A burglar's funeral is disrupted when the hearse containing his coffin is stolen (6355). 8.30 Emmerdale (S) (5862). \*

9.00 Peter Benchley's the Beast. 1/2. When sailors and divers begin to disappear mysteriously, a local fishing-boat captain suspects that a deadly giant squid is to blame ... (7201). \* 10.30 News, Weather (403959). \*
10.40 The Lee Evans Show. Norman Wisdom-style

slanstick. With a guest appearance by legendary singer, Tony Bennett (411268).

11.40 IEEE Doorways (Peter Werner 1993 US), A visitor from a parallel universe lands on Earth where she is immediately forced to go on the run from both the FBI and the villainous agents following her through time (251539). 1.15 Instant Replay 1996 Review of the pop musical year (S) (2932756).

2.20 Electric Live (John Carpenter 1989 US). A drifter arrives in Los Angeles and is horrified to discover the city's population dominated by mindcontrolling aliens (997195).

4.00 Sound Bites (S) (87067242). . The Pickwick Papers (Warwick Gilbert 1985 US). Animated version of (3960447). To

#### Channel 4

6.50 Pro Stars (R) (8519171). 7.15 The Greatest Tune on Earth (7022201). 7.40 The Babysitters Club (R) (8507997). 8.15 Little Shop (R) (7548775). 8.40 Where on Earth is Carmen San Diego?

8.40 Where on Earth is Carmen San Diego? (9017572).

9.00 The Big Breakfast(23688).

10.00 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (R) (S) (80292). \*

10.30 Crystal Maze (R) (S) (22978). \*

11.30 Back to the Future (R) (S) (6503187).

11.55 The Pink Panther (S) (9734423).

12.25 God in the House. An outdoor Christian rave in Littlehampton (S) (5843012). \*

12.55 Racing from Kempton, The 1.10, 1.40, 2.15 and 2.45 races (94927978). 2.45 races (94927978).

3.10 ESSVanya on 42nd Street (Louis Maile 1994 US). Seeof the Day, above(44595442). \*
5.20 News Summary and Weather (6621249).
5.25 Abel's Island (R) (1304423).

6.00 Hollycaks (S) (423).\*
6.30 Pavarotti Returns to Llangollen. See Pick of the Day, above (S) (84201). \*
8.00 Starley Baxter in Reel Terms. The Scottish comic

returns with a compendium of classic sketches from his TV specials, as well as previously unseen material (S) (2249). \* 9.00 13431492: The Conquest of Paradise (Ridley

Scott 1992 US). Of the two major movies made to mark the quincentenary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the Americas, Ridley Scott's was by far the darker and more ambitious - putting the journey within the context of Old World colonialism rather than straightforward school text-book heroics. Covering the 20 years prior to his worldshattering journey, Gérard Depardieu proves a shrewd choice as Columbus, while Sigourney Weaver plays his patroness, Queen Isabel of Spain. Armand Assante supports (S) (52964442).

11.50 PEM Divine Madness! (Michael Ritchie 1980 US). A 30-man camera team shot over one million feet of film to capture Bette Midler packing in a decade's worth of material on stage in Pasadena. Glitzy-looking and raucous (709591),

1.30 Frantastic Planet (René Laloux 1974 Fr/Cz). Remarkable, highly original animated sci-fi that won a special prize at the Cannes Film Festival. It's set in a futuristic planet inhabited by a mechanised race called the Orangs, which keeps human beings as pets - until the captives decide the time has come to fight back (9226176).

2.50 The Raggedy Rawney (Bob Hoskins 1987 UK). A Rawney is apparently someone who is halfmad and half-magic - which, alas, doesn't really summarise Hoskins's outing as director, co-writer and star, it's mildly interesting, nonetheless, with Hoskins playing the leader of a gypsy-like band of refugees in a war-ravaged, non-specific country at the turn of the century. The rawney in question is shell-shocked army deserter played by Dexter Fletcher (359911). To 4.45am.

#### **ITV/Regions**

As London except: 1.15am Film: Curiosity Kills (539114), 2.50am Not Fade Away (6259973). 3.50-5.25am Film: First Love (104379).

CHANGEL 3 NORTH EAST/YORKSHIRE As London except: 1,15am Film: Sideout (248824). 3.10am Not Fade Away (3860911). 4.10am The Elf Who Saved Christmas (47097756). 4.40-5.55am Film: Great Expectations

As London except: 1.15am Film: Curiosity Kills (539114). 2.50am Not Fade Away (6259973). 3.50-5.25am

Film: First Love (10-4379). MEDIDIAN As London except: 1.15am Film; Curiosity Kills (539114), 2.50am Not

Fade Away (6259973), 3.50-5.25am Film: First Love (104379). WESTCOUNTRY As London except: 1.15am Film: Curiosity Kills (539114). 2.50am Not

Fade Away (6259973), 3.50-5.25am Film: First Love (104379). CENTRAL

As London

As C4 except: 10.00am 8less This House (80292). 10.30 Film: The Battle of the Sexes (23990152), 12.05pm The Pink Panther (2935152), 12.20 Slot Meithrin (3960862), 3.10 Citizen 2000 (7298046), 4.30 5 Pump (27715), 6.00 News (987125). 6.05 Heno (121249), 6.35 Sion a Sian (370688), 7.00 Mr Broc (6201), 8.00 Penblwydd Hapus (4997). 8.30 News (233423). 8.45 Y Palmant Aur (342268). 9.45 Film: My Left Foot, Starring Oaniel Day-Lewis, Brenda Fricker, Ray McNally, Cyril Cusack and Adrian Dunbar. A portrait of Christy Brown, the Irish artist born with cerebral palsy. Directed by Jim Sheridan this biopic is intensely moving and both Oaniel Day-Lewis and Brenda Fricker won Oscars for their extraordinary performances. (809084). 11.40-1.40am Film: Outrageous Fortune Starring Bette Midler, Shelley Long, Peter Coyote and Robert Prosky. Comedy about two women who find out they are both having an affair with the same man after he apparently dies in a mysterious explosion, (641978).

#### Radio

Radio 1

8.00am Simon Mayo's Cold Turkey 11.30 George Michael in Concert 1.00 Charlie Jordan 3.00 Dave Pearce 6.00 Evening Session Rewind 9.00 Star Review: Shirley Manson 10.00 in Concert Classic. Blur 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00-

083-90.2Mb/ FM

6.00am Alex Lester 8.00 Wake Up to Wogan 10.00 Ken Bruce 1.00 Christmas Comedy Classics 1.30
Sounds Like Disney 3.00 Save
Wright 5,00 Christmas on Broadway
6.00 Robson and Jeroma 7.00 My Mammy and Me 7.30 David Allan 9.00 Paul Jones 10.00 Mark Knopfler: Roots 10.30 Vintage Christmas: The Blue Carbuncie 11.00 Bob Harris 1.00 Patrick Lunt 3.00-5.00am Mo\_Dutta

(90.2-92.4Mb FIII) 6.00am On Alr. 9.00 Morning Collection. 10.00 Musical Encounters. 12.00 Composer of the Week:

e ne press

Tchaikovsky. 1.00 Opera Matinee: Fidelio. Heroic drama by Beethoven in which Leonore rescues her husband Florestan from unjust imprisonment.
3.30 Bath Mozartest 1995. Mozarterin in E flat, K498; Pieno Quartet in G minor, K478. Brahms: Clarinet Quintet in B minor, Op



Choice

The afternoon play is a slightly overblown version of Ursula Le Guin's A Wizard of Earthsea (2pm R4), ostensibly a children's fantasy but rather darker and deeper. Michael Maloney plays the title role; and later on gets a tad actorish in Daring to Be the Dane (7.20pm R4), an account of his preparations for playing Hamlet.

5.00 Music Machine, is Latin Jazz, or Jazz Latin? Tommy Pearson ex-amines the widespread impact of traditional Latin American styles. 5.15 The Life and Times of the Symphony. Presented by Stephen

Johnson. 6.45 Digital Masters

lights of two contrasting wo 10.00 Music Restored. 10.45 The Shellac Show 11.30 Composers of the Week Chausson and Duparc. 12.30 Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather introduces Duke

7.30 Chamber Music from Manchester. 9.25 By Woody Allan. The Lunatic's Tale. The dark story of a New York doctor torn between the de-

Ellington's 1957 version of the Nutrracker Suite, specially record ed by the Echoes of Ellington. Through the Night. With Don-aid Macleod.
 S.00-6.00am Sequence.

Radio 4 (92.494.648z FM, 1984bz IM) 6.00am News. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Prayer for the Day.

7.00 Today. 9.00 (LW) Test Match Special. Live 9.00 (LW) lest Match Special Live from Harare with Peter Baxter, Henry Blofeld and Simon Mann. 9.00 (FM) News. 9.05 (FM) A Brush with Bioester. 9.05 (FM) A Brish with Blosser 9.45 (FM) Spiles Fleas, 10.00 (LW) Daily Service. 10.0C (FM) The Amherst Myth. 10.15 (LW) On This Day. 10.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Neces-

sary Pleasures. 10.30 (LW) Test Match Special. 11.00 Park Bench and Co. 11.30 The Old Curlosity Shop. 12.00 Paid Company.
12.25 Wordly Wise.
1.00 The World at One. (FM only from 1.07pm) With Nick Clarke.

1.07 (LW) Test Match Special. 1.40 (FM) The Archers. 1.55 Shipping Forecast.2.00 A Wizard of Earthsea. See Choice, above. 4.00 News. 4.05 The Waltons. Dilly Barlow vis-

its the town of Schulyer in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia to meet the real Walton clan and their Hollywood relations.

4.45 Short Story: Rumpole and the
Widow Twankey. By John Mor-

5.00 PML 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 Letter from Over Here 6.30 The New York Stand-Up Comedy Show. 7.00 News.

7.20 Daving to be the Dane. See Choice, above. 8.00 Tales from the Organ Luft.

8.45 My Granny's Larder. Riberta. 9.00 Journeys to Imaginary Places. 9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. Tim Martow examines the mythical status of the artist's studio. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime. The Charlottetown Banquet. By Robertson Davies. 11.00 Bitter Medicine. By Sara

Paretsky. 2/6). 11.30 All About Eve. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Sir Henry at Rawlinson End. Written and per-formed by Viv Stanshall. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00-6.00am As World Service.

(893, 909HJz MW) 6.05am Christmas Quiz 7.00 Breakfast 9.05 Hong Kong at Christmas 11.05 Never Walk Alone 11.30 Sport 5.30 The Match 10.05 Off Piste 11.05 Weather Reports 11.35 Tales of the Turi 12.05 After Hours: Early Call 2.05 Up All Night 5.05-6.00am The Umpire Strikes Back

Classic FM (100-101.9Mz Ne)
7.00am Mike Read on Boding Day
10.00 The Lighter Skde of Christmas
12.00 A Christmas Question of Classics 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 Jack
and the Beanstalk 4.00 Jamie Chick
7.00 Stanley Glasser's A-Z of Christmas 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00
Michael Mapoin 1.00 Sally Peterson.
4.00-7.00am Mark Griffiths.

Virgin Radio
1215, 1197-126Mb Mr 105 MHz Mr
6.00am Jeremy Clark 10.00 Graham Dene 2.00 Lynn Parsons 7.00
(FM) Paul Coyte 7.00 (MW) Robin Banks 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-

6.00am John Hipper **World Service** 

1988/£100 1.00em Newsdesk 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Stories by W.W. Jacobs 3.00 News 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 News 4.30 Off the Shaff, Carlibran Christmas 4.45 the Shelf: Caribbean Christmas 4.45 Folk Routes 5.00 Newsday 5.30 Record News 5.45 Who's Who in Music 5.50-6.00am Insider's Guide

#### **Satellite**

Merie Channel 6.00am Porco Rosso (1992) (25591). 7.30 The New Adventures of Little Toot (1993) (35978), 8.30 Grizzly Adams and the Tressure of the Bear (1995) (48510). 10.00 Sister (64775). 12.00 Night of the Twisters (1995) (33404). 2.00 With Honors (1994) (92572). 4.00 Andre (1994) (93499065). 5.40 Sister Act II: Back in the Habit (1993) (81640065). 7.30 The Movie Show (7591), 8.00 Jack and Sarah (1995) (17881). 10.00 Legends of the Fall (1995) (78779978). 12.15 Goodbye Em-manuelle (1977) (826466). 1.55 ff Someone Had Known (1995) (582814). 3.30-5.10am Enter the Ninja (1981) (86718).

Sky Mories 6.00am Spoils of War (1993) (25220), 8.00 The Sandlot (1993) (52539), 10.00 The Hudsucker Proxy (1994) (66133), 12.00 Heck's Way Home (1995) (35862). 2.00 Cool Runnings (1993) (94930). 4.00 The Beverly Hillothies (1993) (2930). 6.00 Mighty Morphin Power Rangus (1995) (14794). 8.00 Cool Runnings (1993) (31473607), 9,40 US Top 10 (463423), 10,00 Pulp Fiction (1994) (36784959), 12,35 Bullets Over Broadway (1994) (711224). 2.15 Harry and Tonto (1974) (726534). 4.10-6.00em The Hud-

sucker Proxy (1994) (85723485). Sty Movies Gold. 4.00pm Haunted Honeymoon (1986) (4580] 171], 5.55 Wargames (1983) (72094510), 7.50 The Karate Kid (1984) (51646572), 10.00 The Mag-nificent Seven (1960) (89136152), 12.10 Toutsle (1982) (1546485), 2.10 It Started in Naples (1960) (7524718), 3.50-5.10am Haunted Honeymoon (1986) (76953756).

Sky Sports 1 7.00am Racing (14881). 7.30 Cnck-7.30um Hacrig (14831). 7.30 Cn0-et: Second Test - Zimbabwe Vs Eng-tand (1223046). 3.30 Sports Centre Preview (96171). 5.00 Footbelt: Sheffield Wednesday Vs Arsenal - Live (863794). 7.30 Footbelt: Aberdeen Vs Celtic - Live (851959), 10.00 Sports Centre (76571), 10.30 Angling Masters (37084), 11.30 Asian Golf (29189), 12.30 Football Special (55485), 2.30 Football Scottish League (90718), 4.30-5.00am

agy sports 2 8.00pm Angling Masters (5285/133). 9.00 Windsurling (25/095/10). 9.30 World of Salling (4751,355). 10.00 Tiams World Sport (52/08/08/0, 11.00 Bobby Cherlion's Football Scapbook (343/1539).

12.30-1.00am Rugby (7967911). 7.00am Love Connection (4901591). 7,20 Press Your Luck (4921355), 7,40 7.20 Press four Luck (4922.355), 7.40 Jeopardy, (31.48775), 8.10 Hotal (5593572), 9.00 Another World (6959125), 9.45 Oprain (7843937), 10.40 Presi TV (47655102, 11.10 Salvy Jessy Raphwel (9398510), 12.00 Gazaldo (74152), 1.00 Jenny Jones (50572), 2.00 Oprain (39959), 3.00 WWF (6659), 1.500 Star Tiels: The Next Generation (7626), 6.00 The Simpsons

(1317), 6.30 The Simpsons (5997). 7,00 The Simpsons (8355), 7,30 Super-models (4881), 8,00 Sightings (20355). 9.00 Nash Bridges (23442), 11.00 Star Tiele The Next Gameration (87713), 12.00 L.A.P.D. (15060), 12.30 Real TV (44422), 1,00-7,00mm Hit Mix (28440).

7.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (1984510), 8.00 Police Rescue (1960930), 9.00 Inspector Malgret (1970317). 11.00 David Lette 1308404). 12.00 Film: The Southern Star (1969) (2700350), 2,00-6,00mm Hit Mix Long Play (8714114).

6.00am TV 7.00 Spanish 7.30 Mind and Body 8,00 Why Files 8,30 Video Box 9.00 Psychic Pets 9,30 Fachion 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Canary Wharf 11.00 Mind and Body 11.30 Spanish Archer 12.00 Revelations Spanish Archer 12.00 Revealurs
12.30 Why Files 1.00 Bushido on
Boxing Day 2.00 Fashion 2.30 Mind
and Body 3.00 Bushido on Boxing
Day 4.00 Spanish Archer 4.30 Why
Files 5.00 Bushido on Boxing Day Files 5.00 Bushido on Bowing Day 6.00 Fashion 6.30 Gail's Sport 7.00 Spanish Archer 7.30 Revelopons 8.00 Psychic Pets 8.30 Missing Persons 9.03 Wity Files 9.30 Looking for Love 10.03 Gail's Sport Show 10.30 Stand-Up Live Special: Frank Carson 11.30 The Best of Edenquest 12.30 Kits TV: Kits Clubs 1.30 Home Shop-cing 2.00 Stand-Ib Jee Special ping 2.00 Stand-Up Live Special; Miles Roid 3.00 Edenquest with San-dra Taylor 4.00 Spanish Archer 4.30 Pin Money 5.00 Scort Live 5.30-

#### **Going Out** CINEMA NEW RELEASES

CONEMA NEW RELEASES

101 DALMATIANS (1) Starring Glenn Close
so Crosells De Vid. Accord Menter Village
12.30pm, 1pm, 3.30pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm,
9.10pm Berkless Enemie 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm,
9.10pm Berkless Enemie 3pm, 6pm, 8.30pm,
8.50pm; Zhender Lögen, 3.30pm, 4.10pm,
8.50pm; Cheydon Hörerer Pillage 1pm, 1.30pm,
8.30pm; Cheydon Hörerer Pillage 1pm, 1.30pm,
9.30pm, 4pm, 6pm, 6.40pm, 8.30pm, 9.15pm;
Edgewer Belle-tur 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 9.15pm;
Edgewer Belle-tur 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm,
6.15pm; Edgenosen Ler Belley UCI 12 1pm,
1.30pm, 1.55pm, 3.40pm, 4.15pm, 4.45pm,
6.10pm, 1.55pm, 3.40pm, 9.10pm Finethey
Fillage 1.20pm; 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4pm,
6.10pm, 6.40pm, 6.40pm, 3.30pm, 4pm,
6.10pm, 6.40pm; Consumer Consumer 1.20pm;
Segun 6.30pm, 8.40pm; Harrow Villamer
1.20pm; Consumer Consumer 1.30pm,
8.55pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm; Harrow Villamer 6. Hopa, 6. Open, 8. Sepen, 9. Hopa: Free Institute of States of Lighter Consended Charmat 1. Open, 3. Sepen, 6. Donis, 8. Albant, Harrow Warner 2. Hopan, 3. Sepen, 6. Open, 6. George Odeon 1. Sopan, 2. Hopan, 3. Sepen, 6. Donis, 6. Donis, 7. Hopan, 2. Hopan, 3. Sepen, 6. Donas Cheven Hall Odeon 1. Sepen, 3. Sepen, 6. Donas Cheven Hall Odeon 1. Sepen, 3. Sepen, 6. Donas Cheven Hall Odeon 1. Sepen, 3. Sepen, 6. Donas Cheven Hall Odeon 1. Sepen, 5. Sepen, 6. Sepen, 7. Hopan, 9. Albant, 6. Sepen, 8. Albant, 7. Hopan, 9. Albant, 6. Sepen, 8. Albant, 7. Sepen, 6. Sepen, 8. Sepen, 8. Sepen, 7. Sepen, 6. Sepen, 8. Sepen, 8. Sepen, 8. Sepen, 9. Sepen, 9. Sepen, 9. Sepen, 9. Sepen, 9. Sepen, 9. Sepen, 7. Sepen, 8. Sepen, 8. Sepen, 7. Sepen, 8. Sepen, 7. Sepen, 8. Sepen, 8. Sepen, 7. Sepen, 9. S

DAYLIGHT (12) Spivesser Stalions in a watery action-advocature. Barking Colom 3.35pm, 6.25pm, Croxilon Warner Village Lorn, 3.40pm, 6.25pm, Croxilon Warner Village Lorn, 3.40pm, 6.20pm, Spin, Edwarden Lee Valley UCI 12 1.20pm, 2pm, 4.05pm, 4.35pm, 6.30pm, Finchley Sparer 2pm, 4.70pm, 7.0pm, 9.30pm; Finchley Sparer 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm; Finchley Warner 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm; Harper Warner 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm; Richmond Odeon 1.20pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm; Romford Odeon 1.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm; Romford Odeon 1.20pm, 5.35pm, 7.55pm, 8.30pm; UCI Whiteleys 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.25pm; Virgue Cheket 2.40pm, 3.20pm; 7.55pm
EVITA 1PC) Madocutes stars as Era Dustree. Actor Warner Village G.15pm, 9.15pm; Barking Odeon 6.30pm; Brombey Odeon 5.30pm; Rombey Odeon 5.30pm; Conden Warner Village G.15pm, 9.15pm; Barking Odeon 6.30pm; Brombey Odeon 5.30pm; P.20pm, 9.20pm; Hollowey Odeon 6.35pm; Ifford Odeon 6.30pm; Hollowey Odeon 6.35pm; Ifford Odeon 6.30pm; Rampel Odeon 6.35pm; J.5pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm; Hollowey Odeon 6.35pm; J.5pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm; Rampel Odeon 6.35pm; Rampel Odeon 6.35pm; Rampel Odeon 6.35pm; J.5pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm; Rampel Odeon 6.35pm; J.5pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm; Rampel Odeon 6.35pm; J.5pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm; Rampel Odeon 6.25pm, 9.25pm; Rampel Odeon 6.25pm, 9.25pm; J.5pm, 9.25pm; J.5pm,

130pm, 4pm, 630pm, 930pm; Pernylant Odeon Liberty 2 (240pm, 5pm, 730pm; Virgin Failmen Pernk 130pm, 530pm, 830pm; Virgin Franzlant 1205pm, 225pm, 440pm 7pm 920pm HOME FOR THE HOLDAYS (15) Annusing 12.05pm, 2.25pm, 4.40pm 1pm 9.20pm
HOME FOR THE HOLDAYS (15) Annusing
portrait of American family life, storing
Holly Hunter and Anne: Bancroft, Carzon
Hear End 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm
BMALE ALL THE WAY (PG) Annold
Schwarzenegger stars. Acton Marner Village
12.50pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm; Barking
Odeon 4pm; Berkneiman ABC 1.30pm,
3.45pm, fopm, 8.45pm, Barking Odeon
2.10pm, 4.10pm; Edmonston Lee Valley UCI 12
1.10pm, 3.50pm, 5.30pm, 9pm; Frienley Warner 10.50mn, ipm, 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 7em, form,
10pm; Harner Warner 2.30pm, 4.35pm,
6.25pm; Illord Odeon 1.25pm, 4.35pm,
6.25pm; Illord Odeon 1.25pm, 4.5pm, Masnell
Hill Odeon 2pm, 4.55pm, 7em, 7em, Masnell
Hill Odeon 2pm, 4.55pm, 7em, 7em, Masnell
Hill Odeon 2pm, 4.55pm, 7em, 7em, 7em, 7em,
4.5pm, 6.35pm; Festivan Premier Caranu
12.10pm, 2.25pm, 5.5pm, 7.5pm, 7pm; Remylord
Odeon Stadio 2pm, 4.10pm, 7em, 8mp; Sarpm, 7em,
12.5pm, 4.5pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm; Echmond
Odeon Stadio 2pm, 4.10pm, 7pm; Remylord
Odeon Stadio 2pm, 4.10pm, 7pm; Remylord
Odeon Stadio 2pm, 4.10pm, 2.50pm; Stefansond
Odeon Stadio 2pm, 4.5pm, 2.50pm; Stefansond
Odeon Stadio 2pm, 8.5pm, 7.5pm; Supins
Corner Virgin 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm; Stefansond
Odeon Stadio 2pm, 6.0pm, 8.5pm, 7.5pm; Supins
Corner Virgin 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm; Stefansond
Odeon Stadio 2pm, 6.5pm, 9pm; Warner West
End 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.20pm; Woodjord ABC 220pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm
THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT (18) Sammel
L Jackson and Geena Davis star in Remny
Hartin's high Occase, computer Send 4pm,
6.30pm, 8.30pm; Warner West End 4pm,
6.30pm, 8.30pm

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9.10pm STAR TREES FIRST CONTACT (12) The crew STAR TREM. FIRST COMPACT [12] The crew of the Standing Enterprise E lock phasess with the mercises Borg. Actor Manner Village Liftem, 2:10pm, 3:30pm, 4:00pm, 6:40pm, 7:10pm, 9:20pm, 9:40pm; Burnley Oxford 2:40pm, 6:05pm, 8:45pm; Conjulan William Fillage 1:10pm, 3:35pm, 6:10pm, 8:45pm; Edgesare Belle-see 1:2:10pm, 2:40pm, 5:20pm, 8:10pm Edmonrous Lee Vellage VCI 2:1:40pm, 4:35pm, 7:05pm, 9:20pm, 3:45pm; Engine Leicester Square 1:15pm, 3:45pm; 6:15pm, 8:45pm; Finckley Warner 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7pm, 9:50pm;

Greenotch Cinema 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm;
Harrow Wirner 2.20pm, 3.20pm, 4.35pm,
6.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.11pm, 9.50pm; Holloway
Odeon 1.25pm, 9pm, 6.30pm; Bind Odeon
1.25pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm; Goden Kowington 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm; Swar
Comey Odeon 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm,
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2.115pm, 6.45pm; J.10pm; Sapler Comey Vigin 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm; UCI
Whiteleys 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.45pm; 9.15pm;
Virgin Filiams Road 2.10pm, 5.10pm; 8.10pm;
Woodford ABC 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm
SURVIVING PICASSO (15) Biopic of the
great artist, scars Austhony Hopkins, Virgin
Haymarket 2.15pm, 5.10pm, 8.40pm; Warmer
West End 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm THEATRE WEST END HIGHIGHTS

sams Ameri Francy.

Wondhem's Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (017)369 1736) & Leic Sq. The Sat 8.00 (not 31

Dect. [4] 3.00 [7] 1] 5.00 (extra mats 27, 31

Dec. 5.00), 19.50-625, 90 miss. BY JEEVES Lloyd Webber/Ayekbourn musical.

Lyde Straficsbury Ave. W1 (0171-494 5045)

O Pice Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00 (extra part 27 Dec, 3.00), £11.50-£25, 140 mins.

LE CERCLE INVISIBLE ECRECLE INVISION.

Everative distillation of the circust form,

Moranid Pucktle Dock, EC 1 (0171-236

2211) 49 Blackfrian, The-Sat 7.30 (not 31

Doc, 1 Ian, extra perf 30 Dec, 7.30), [11] 4.00
(extra mats 26, 31 Dec, 1 Ian, 4.00), cruds 12

Ian, £13.50-£19.50, comes de standby £10, child £10, framby of four £30, 120 mins.

THE CHERRY ORCHARD
Penciope Wilton in Chekhov's classic.

Albry St Martin's Lanc, WCZ (977)-369
1730) © Leis Sq. Moo-Sci 7.30, [5][7] 3.00, cnds 25 Jan., £10-£25, 165 mats. A CHRISTIMAS CAROL

A CHARLE HOUSE CAROL.

SHATS Richard Bruers as the auser Schooge.

Livic Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) © Hammersmith. 26-28, 30, 31

Dec., 7-30, maits 26, 28, 31 Dec., 2-30, ends 18

Jan. E10-E15, under 16s 86, all seats Mon £5, 120 mins. A DOLL'S HOUSE A DOLL'S HOUSE Stars Janet McRer and Owen Teale. Physicuse Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (1971-839 4401) D Emburdement. Mon-Sat 7.30 (not 3.1 Den. 17] 2.30 (earter mat 2 Jan. 2.30), cnds 1. Jan. £10-£23.50. 180 mins. JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Lucan Wellington Street, WC2 (0171-656 1802) & Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.45, [4][7] 3.00 (cura mars 27 Dec. 3.00), £15-£32.50. LAUGHTER ON THE 23RD FLOOR Gene Wilder in Neil Summ's comedy.

Queen's Staffierbury Ave, W1 (0171-494
5590) & Pice Circ. Mon-Sat 8,00, [4] 2,30,
[7] 4,00 (extra mat 27 Dec. 2,30), £9,50.225.
140 mins.

MARTIN GUERRE Boubil and Schomberg's minical.

Prince Edward Old Compton Street, WI (0171-447 \$400) & Lele Sq. Mon-Sat 7.45, 15[17] 3.00 (not 26 Dec, extra mat 27 Dec, 3.00), £16.50-£32.50. 150 mins. ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE: Obiver Colored Eyes a product Guys And Dolla Richard Eyes a product Mon-Sat 7,15pm, mars 26 & 31 Dec. 200pm, cmts 29 Mar. 165 mins.

Lytelor:
Death Of A Salesman Aim Armstrong stars in Arthur Miller's Seamag study of family conflict. Boriel, 7-30pm, continuing in rep. 175 main.
Controle:
Blindad By The Sun, Stephen Polisikoff's scientific detective story stars Frances de la Burt and Graham Croteden. Tought, 7-30pm, ends 28 Dec. 150 main. Obver: £12-£35.50. Lyttelton: £8-£34. Controlor: £12-£16. South Buile, London SE1 9PX. 1077-928 2252.

0171-928 2252 ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY:

The Barbana: As You Like 2 Namh Casak in Steuen
Finlatt's production of Shalespeare's mediation on lost mandence. Tought, 7,15pm, in
rep unit? 29 Mar. 195 mins. The Pit: The White Davil John Webster's distr ly violent Jacobean thriller. Tonight, 7,15pm, in rep until 29 Mar. 190 mms. Barbean Theatre: £6.£24.50. The Prt. £10-£17. Sdk. Street, Lundon ECTY 8DS. 0171-628 8991.

Fellini-Impered musical .

Domar Warrhouse Earlban Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) ◆ Lee Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30, [4][7] 3.00, cods 8 Mar, £12-£25, 120 mins. THE OFFICIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS

Comic concert musical.

Apallo Shaftes Are, W1 (0171-494 5070) ◆
Proc Circ. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri & Sat 6pm &
9pm, ends 18 Jan, £7.50 £25, £30 mins. DLD WICKED SONGS Jon Marach drama, starring Bob Floskans. Gelgad Shaftestony Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) ◆ Fice Circ, Mon-Sat 7-30, [5] 2-30, [7] 4.00, £9-£24, £20 mins.

7.30, [4][7] 2.30 (extra mai 27, Dec. 2.30), 410-632-91, 150 mars PLUNDER
Griff Rhys Jones stars in Ben Travers'

Vinin Kups Auto Back and a later vininge faren. Smor Strand, WC2 (0171 s % 6880/0c 0171 s % 6880/0c 0171 s % 6980/0c Charang X. Mon-Sai 7.3u, [5]]? 1.20 (pat) & Dec, exten mat 27 Dec, 2.30), £10-£25. 100 mins.

SCROOGE Anthony Newley humbugs his way through the Dickensian Christmas musical. Donneson Tottenham Court Road, WI Road, Mon-Sat 7.30 (not 31 Dec. 1 Jan). 3 Jan. 3.00), ends 1 Feb. £5.50 £27.50.

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE - THE SONGS OF LEIBER AND STOLLER in a musical serve that includes laithouse Rock Prince of Wales Covenay Succe, W1 (017). 839 5972] ← Leicester Square, Mon Sat 8.00, [5§7] 3.00 (not 26 Dec, eQra mat 27 Dec, 3.00), £15-£30, 135 mins.

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE Tennessee Williams' tense drama stars Jessica Lange and Tithy Stephens.

Theatre Royal Haymarket, SW1 10171-930
8800) © Paccadilly Circus. Mon. Sat 7.45 130 Dec, 7.00), [5][7] 3.00 (not 26 Dec, extra mat 27 Dec, 3.00), £10-£30.

The things they say in the

heat of the moment, page 29

THURSDAY 26 DECEMBER 1996 . THE INDEPENDENT

## England regroup as Lloyd lets off steam

Cricket

**DEREK PRINGLE** reports from Harare

It may not feel like the season of goodwill, and Harare is the last place on earth you would expect to see a White Christmas. but that is no excuse for England to play humbug, particularly their coach, David Lloyd, whose latest gaffe was to get involved in a verbal altercation with Ian Goggen, the chairman of the Mashonaland Cricket Association who is an official from the Zimbabwe cricket union. immediately after last Sunday's dramatic finish.

The incident, described in a local paper as "an exchange of words," was heated enough to have been brought to the attention of Hanumant Singh. the match referee. In a statement issued yesterday, Singh de-cided that no further action would be taken, indicating that the matter had been resolved quickly and amicably.

It is a view unlikely to be takeo at face value by the barnstorming new chairman of the England Cricket Board, Lord MacLaurin, who arrives here on Friday. MacLaurin, who has already stated his desire for English cricket to become a more consumer friendly product, is unlikely to have been impressed by this latest indiscretion and will hopefully seek an explanation from Lloyd, who is barred from commeoting about it by ICC regulations.

to be gift-wrapped, it has cer-tainly been a frustrating time for England, who now have five days to salvage something other than ignominy from this tow. It will not be easy, not least because of the weather and every night so far, Harare has been lit up like Dracula's cas-



The England coach, David Lloyd, directs the groundstaff as they prepare the nets for yesterday's training session for the Second Test which starts in Harare this morning Photograph: Chris Turvey/Empice

outfields prove playable, will be slow, and will probably offer some early assistance to the seam bowlers. Unless they drop Pull Talacti, England's response will be to replace Chris Silverwood with Craig White, who despite oot having bowled a ball

The pitch, should saturated irrespective of the final balance a side whose coach remains conutfields prove playable, will be of the attack.

This gives England an extra batsman to bat at seven behind the six that played in Bulawayo. leaving them - if Tunieli plays with just two and a half seam bowlers, a risky gambit considering that White has yet to

murdered the opposition, last week, the combination smacks of must-oot-lose defensiveoess.

It is also flawed and should England bowl first without Silverwood in the side, there will be no one to probe that full

on a slow seamer. Instead an un-varying diet of Mullally, Gough and White will prevail, bowlers who all prefer to hit the pitch short of a length, a method that for Zimbabwe's top order in the

Having derived far more than England from the result of probably remain oncbanged

the last Test, Zimbabwe are still likely to make changes and the left-bander Mark Dekker is certain to open the batting in place of Stuart Carlisle, who looked hopelessly out of his depth. Unless Eddo Brandes, who damaged his ankle has

week, is fit, the bowling will

unless water gets under the

For England, who spent the festive season trying to fit in practice between thunderstorms, there is now a Test match to be won. However, before the plotting starts, they may like to consider the ghosts of England tours past.

Since the Boxing Day Test 10 years ago, when Mike Gatting's ngland last won the Ashes. their record abroad has been ap palling. In 42 overseas Tests, indraw, England have won only five. Evidence that, away from home at least, we don't tend to "flippin' murder" anyone.

## Ferguson puts Pearce to the test

Football

PHIL SHAW

Even allowing for a Boxing Day tradition which dictates that the form book goes out of the window, the odds are stacked against the Premiership's newest manager when he pits his wits against his longestserving counterpart today.

Stuart Pearce is the self-confessed novice taking his second of Manchester United, Forest lie bottom of the table; United. who have won the last two meetings 5-0 and 4-1, barbour hopes of retaining their championship.

Pearce has until the eod of next month to decide wbether he wants the job permacently. He surprised many people, in-cluding Arsèce Wenger, one suspects, with his approach to Saturday's victory over Arsenal. If the fist-shaking and exhor- again Andy Cole against his tations were entirely pre- home-town team, Pearce may

ACROSS

One going on foot across the prairie? (8)

Spinner beginning to play in team by mid-April (6)
 Company of bowmen? (6,

11 Foreign tegation wrecked

German guards (7)

maybe after invasion by

12 Oppressive old tyrant confronting American (7)13 Show of barefaced cheek,

impounding a vehicle -

mals is put off (5)
18 Points made by new poems

(5) 30 Female Palace supporter.

maybe (8)

takes the biscuit (8)

No J179. Boxing Day

changes in formation and per-This afternoon's game will, if

anything, be an even sterner test of his tactical acumen. Colin Cooper might be deputed to do the marking joh on Eric Cantona that he did so successfully on Paul Merson, though with Ferguson forewarned, "Psycho" may have to come up with fresh strategies. And as if managing the relegation favourites was not game as caretaker manager of hard enough, he also has to play Nottingham Forest, Alex Ferand will doubtless bope Ryan guson the canny veteran pre- Giggs sticks to the opposite

United are equally desperate for the points. They must avoid losing touch with the teams above them (although the way they came from being 10 points behind Newcastle at the half way stage last seasoo offers encouragement to all) and to confirm that the 5-0 rout of Sunderland really did represent a return to their best.

While the United manager has the option of recalling a fit-

Because of the demands of television, leaders Liverpool

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

26 Cashiered officer is so use-

27 Memories evoked by city

28 In company, unit of ther-mal insulation's given num-

Old weapon found by po-

Insubstantial character has

the support of the directors

impossibility of recalling

one seaman in choppy con-

lice crossing river (6)

gardens (6)

ditions (7)

method.' (5) Not real kid? (7)

the imaginative be tempted to start with the ooloan Nigel Clough — who could well become his assistant — in place of Bryan Roy. If that would be a rare instance of a Manchester City player tasting victory over United: Boxing

> will have played four times in 10 days before New Year's Day is over; likewise Newcastle. But strenuous as the "holiday" schedule is, it offers teams the chaoce to build momeotum accumulation of points. Liverpool must be confident

> of maintaining their three-point advantage against Leicester at Anfield Coincidentally, the clubs met at Filbert Street two years ago today. Of the Leicester lineup that day -- which was early in the Mark McGhee era — only Simon Grayson and Mick Whitlow remains. Revealingly, the Liverpool side this afternoon would bave been virtually identical but for the departures of Ian Rush and John Scales.

Monsieur Wenger, having been outwitted by Pearce, oow comes up against David Pleat, a seasooed practitioner in games of cat and mouse, when second-placed Arsenal visit Sbeffield Wednesday this evening. By co-incidence, The Italian Job will be advertising the virtues of the Mini on television as Pleat's clever mini striker from Internazionale, Benito Carbone, attempts to perform one on a defence that will in-

clude Tony Adams after sus-The West Loodoo Azzuri, pressed to give their followers a belated "Buon Natale" at

Aston Villa: Ruud Gullit's side have looked a soft touch on their travels whereas Villa's title odds have been slasbed from 33-1 to 8-1 after five successive wins. The 5-0 walloping of Wimbledon was only the second time they have scored more than twice in a match all season, so Brian Little must be looking to Savo Milosevic to prove that Sunday was oot simply a glorious aberration.

sweet memories for Chelsea, there against Manchester United last spring, imagine what emotions Newcastle's return to Blackburn is likely to unleash. For it was at Ewood Park on Easter Monday that one Geordie, Rovers' Graham Fenton, scored twice in the last four minutes to provoke an outhreak of highly public blubbering among thousands of

pionship would go to Old Traf-ford, but this time Blackburn's other Tynesider. Alan Shearer, is in their colours. Only the most mean-spirited of his once-adoring public will not give the England captain a warm welcome, though the same may not be true of Gary McAllister's return with Coventry to Leeds, whose fans made it clear that they felt their former captain bad betrayed them when the clubs met in September. Also going back, to Mid-

dlesbrough, is Everton's Nick have not won since he left - the run now stands at 12 matches ing like a pub team after pulling out of last weekend's fixture at Blackburn. The casualty list at the Riverside is so lengthy that those ghosts of Boxing Day past, Bryan Robson (40 in January) and Viv Anderson (40 already), have put themselves on

Meanwhile, Wimbledon have the perfect opportunity to Newcastle's defeat that night launch another undefeated se-West Ham, who have not won m nine games. In the unlikely event of the Dons sulking over the end of their four-month run. they may care to reflect on the state they were in going into their Boxing Day match 12

months ago.

Lying third from bottom after 14 Premiership games without a win, they triumphed 2-1 at Chelsea despite having Vinnie Jones sent off. Suddenly third from top and one defeat in 20 does not look so bad.

#### Aberdeen's chance to overhaul Celtic

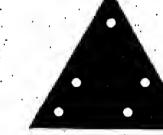
With the battle for bonours in return after missing three Scotland looking increasingly games since facing Rangers on Scotland looking increasingly like a contest for second place, Celtic's visit to Aberdeen today could be crucial.

Rangers are 14 points clear at the top of the table, but second-placed Celtic have Aherdeen breathing down their necks only a point behind. Aberdeen, however, have not beat-en Celtic since last April and today they will again be without the suspended Stewart McKim-

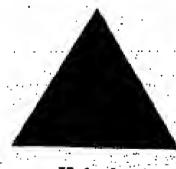
Celtic have Paolo Di Canio cent suspension, while Jackie McNamara has an outside chance of returning from injury. Andreas Thom is a slight doubt, but Pierre Van Hooydonk could 4 November. Rangers, who are at home to

Raith Rovers, will expect to ex-tend their excellent Premier League home record, which reads eight wins and one draw from nine games. Joechim Bjorkhmd, Craig Moore and Peter Van Vossen rejoin the Rangers squad. Raith are seeking their first even Premier League win against the

John Robertson will be looking for his 200th Scottish they travel to Dunfermline The home side will be aiming to extend the remarkable run which has lifted them to fourth in the table.



Turkey, broken fairy lights, relatives, turkey, chitty chitty, bang bang, relatives.



Yo-ho-ho.



BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

## Wenger accuses Jerkan

DERRICK WHYTE

Arsène Wenger, the manager of Arsenal, has accused the Nottingham Forest defender, Nikola Jerkan, of "cheating" during the incideot which saw Ian Wright seot off at the City Ground last Saturday.

Arsenal's leading scorer was show the red card after the Croatian defender fell to the ground following an off-the-ball clash between the two men. Jerkan claimed that his shin had been raked by Wright's studs.

Wright, who has vehemently denied the accusation, now faces a three-match ban, hut the refcree, Steve Lodge, who admits he did not see the incident bin acted on linesman John Hol-hrook's advice, has promised to look at a video recording. Arsenal, via the Football As-

sociation, have also sent a copy of the film to Holbrook, with Wenger explaining: "I cannot think that the linesman had a good view of it at the time. "But it is obvious from the

film that Jerkan was cheating. I agree Ian Wright might have acted provocatively and I know that we have to adjust our ways to make sure we keep 11 players on the field. "But the reaction by Jerkan

to anything that Wright did was ridiculous. I think the video makes it perfectly clear and I think the matter should be judged on that evidence.

shown a yellow card in the game before he deliberately obstructed Ian Wright, which should have produced another yellow card. Instead, just 20 secoods later we had our player

seot off instead. "What Jerkan did is some-thing for which foreign players have a bad reputation. Speaking generally, I think an English player would not act like that but foreigners are bringing bad things as well as good things to the game here."
Unless the referee changes

his mind, Wright's seeding-off will carry a three-match ban be-ginning with Arseoal's FA Cup tie against Sunderland. Even if the red card is commuted to yellow it will still take him beyond the FA's 21-points disciplinary barrier and land him with a twomatch suspensioo.

Middlesbrough could also

be in trouble with football's authorities after pulling out of their match at Blackburn last week because they had 23 players unavailable through injuries and illness. They did so without the Premier League's permissioo and must appear before a League commission oo 14 Jannary. They could be fined and have points deducted.

Meanwhile Bryan Robson, Middlesbrough's manager, has responded to criticisms by his Italian striker, Fabrizio Ra-vanelli, of training facilities and

"Jerkan had already been coaching methods in the Premiership. Ravanelli, whose remarks were made on Italian television, claimed he was forced to train oo his own at Middlesbrough using charts supplied by

his former club, Juventus. Rohsoo said: "Ravanelli trained on his own when be stayed behind during our preseason tours hut be does not train on his own oow." Robson also said that match preparations were different by necessity in England compared to those in Italy. He pointed out that English teams face a demanding fixture programme whereas Italian teams generally play

only on Sundays.

Walsall are to study an FA report into last week's Turf Moor floodlight failure before deciding whether to seek compensation. Walsall were leading 1-0 in the FA Cup second round replay at Burnley a week ago when the lights went out during halftime, forcing the match to be abandoned. Walsali lost the replayed match on Monday. Sunderland are close to con-

cluding a £400,000 deal with Zeytinburnu for the purchase of the Turkish cluh's Senegalese striker, Mamadou Diallo. Norwich City bave completed the signing of Matthew Jackson from Everton for £450,000, while the Portsmouth striker, Deon Burton, has joined Cardiff City on a month's loan. Sunderland success, page 19

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23 Committee approve regis-Party consuming vermouth - time for same again (5)

25 Change to decor in French 8 Murmur comforting things

Hard to define the Socratic 24 Fit fur sporting event (5)

in user's ear, perhaps (8) Vessel laden with sherry?

14 Cause for special celebra-

16 Painter of landscapes done

17 Version of a conte edited.

21 Entertainer who might be

22 Norwegian ready to take

25 Small part in play didn't come to anything? (5)

king's rook, one on right

in oil, elaborately decorat-

omitting middle part? (8)

persuaded to give it a rest

tion (8)

19 Grab a bit? (7)